

The 6th Singapore Orchid Show 2016

John Elliott. Photos by Joseph Yeo, Teoh Eng Soon and Goh Juan Hui.

This year's Singapore Orchid Show was the sixth held as part of the Singapore Garden Festival, and the second at the Flower Dome, Gardens by the Bay, in conjunction with an Orchid Extravaganza. Every show has its own distinctive character, and this one was marked by a great range of less commonly seen orchids, many of them cool growing. It was also a larger show than in 2014. There was a total of 567 plants on display, an increase of well over a hundred, and they were drawn from no less than 108 different genera. Of these 567 competitive plants, 163 were species and 404 were hybrids.

Compared to some shows 567 competitive orchids may not sound a lot. In shows gone by numbers in the thousands have been mentioned, but these figures have always

included numerous orchids that are essentially fillers, massed groups in landscapes or in decorations. And despite a flirtation, in the 20th WOC, with a system under which the judging team themselves decided which plants would be considered, local exhibitors and judges still favour the traditional system in which plants to be judged are registered and grouped for judging. So the actual competitive exhibits are the core of the show, and 567 is a respectable number. On the other hand, we should not be complacent.

If we go back



Left: Mr Au Yong Kien Chung, proud owner of Grand Champion Plant of Show *Aranthera James Storie* x *Renanthera storiei*.

Indonesia, Malaysia (East and West), Myanmar, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, the UK and the USA. Several exhibitors and judges were new to the Singapore Orchid Show, but we hope we will see them again in future.

The layout of this year's show was a great improvement on that of 2014, for this time the orchids were spaced out around the Flower Dome, in a sequence of three enclosed gardens (Australian, South African and Mediterranean), where they were discreetly mounted or hung on apparatus devised by the Extravaganza designer, Alan Tan of Living Décor. Alan had also decorated each garden with a backdrop – or sometimes what seemed like a ceiling – of complementing orchid blooms. In some cases, notably in the use of white phalaenopsis, these backdrop plants were of a very high quality.

in time to the pre-war shows, there were generally close to 400 exhibits, which made up in number what they lacked in variety. Such numbers were possible because in those days amateurs were wealthy and grew their orchids in quantity, in extensive private gardens. An advertisement in the Straits Times for 5 March 1932 offered to sell 5 to 6ft *Vanda Joaquim* [sic] plants at \$120 per thousand, the price including planting and three months care.

The competitive plants came from a total of 34 exhibitors: 10 professionals from Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand, 10 professionals from Singapore, and 14 amateurs, all from Singapore. Although OSSEA is an amateur society, this participation indicates the strong support it enjoys from professional growers here and overseas. None gave stronger support than the Singapore Botanic Gardens and Gardens by the Bay, both of which sent numerous excellent plants from their own collections. We were fortunate to have available 36 well-qualified judges, 14 from Singapore and 22 variously from Australia, Germany,



Paraphalaenopsis serpentina
'Singapore Botanic Gardens' AM/OSSEA



Above: The show is a delight for both amateur and professional photographers.
Below: The *Phalaenopsis* section.



Then there were in addition two illuminated vivaria filled with miniature orchids in flower, expertly set up by Joseph Yeo [1]. Visitors, having gently descended through the Dome viewing these sights, were finally confronted by the display of trophy winning plants, with their trophies. After this, they left the show and plunged into the fantasy world of the Orchid Extravaganza in the Flower Field.

Turning to the plants, Au Yong Kien Chung of Orchidwoods, Sarawak, exhibited the Grand Champion *Aranthera* (*Aranthera* James Storie x *Renanthera storiei*) [pg 21]. This augured well for the forthcoming Asia Pacific Orchid Conference in 2019, which Sarawak is hosting. Gardens by the Bay exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion, a spectacular *Pinalia floribunda* [2] and also gained a silver medal for its unusual primary hybrid *Dendrobium* Kuniko [3] with flowers in a rich blue inherited from its parent *Den victoriae-reginae*. A stunning *Rhynchostylis retusa*,

[4] exhibited by Woon Leng Nursery, was awarded the Best Species and Best Specimen Plant. This species has its habitat in the north reaches of South East Asia and is difficult to grow well in Singapore. Among the other trophy winners, Christopher Teo collected the trophy for the Best Foliage Orchid for his *Ludisia discolor* [5], also known as the Jewel Orchid, while new exhibitor Marei Karge-Liphard, from Orchideengarten, collected two trophies, for *Coelogyne* Orchideengarten Clara and a particularly deeply coloured *Maxillaria tenuifolia* [6]. *Paphiopedilum* Harold Koopowitz, exhibited by Ching Hua



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exhibited by Ching Hua



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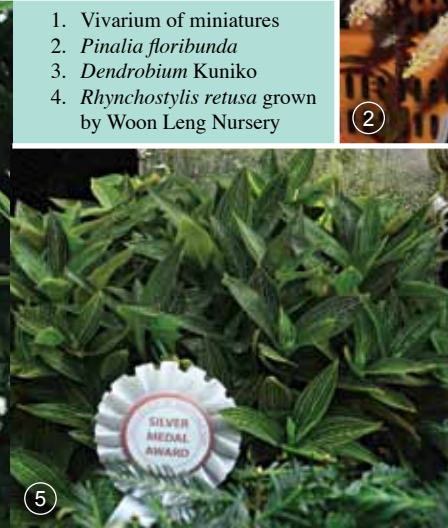
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1. Vivarium of miniatures
2. *Pinalia floribunda*
3. *Dendrobium* Kuniko
4. *Rhynchostylis retusa* grown by Woon Leng Nursery

5. *Ludisia discolor*
6. Marei Karge-Liphard with her *Maxillaria tenuifolia* (close up in insert photo)
7. *Spathoglottis* Garden City 'Variegated'

8. Amateur with the Highest Score Christopher Teo wins Sultan of Johor's Perpetual Trophy
9. *Pleurothallis alvaroi*
10. *Haraella retrocalla*
11. *Schoenorchis fragrans*



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12. *Phymatidium falcifolium*
13. *Pleurothallis truncata*
14. *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*
15. *Promenaea* Partridge 'A'
16. *Maxillaria striata* 'J&L'



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17. *Dracula vampira* 'Morgan le Fay'
18. *Dracula cordobae*
19. *Masdevallia coccinea*
20. Gold medal winner *Dendrobium Hibiki*, exhibited by Damrong Hongsavatham



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21. *Anguloa clowesii*
22. *Oncidium* Ron's Rippling Delight
23. *Den* (Tengah Black Panther x *lasianthera*)
24. *Spathoglottis* (Seletar Park x *plicata*)



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25. *Vanda* Norgard GEM
26. *Vanda* (Kenny Gold x Suksumsran Spots)
27. A prize winning *Phal Sogo* Yukidian submitted by Woon Leng Nursery.

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Top: Guest of Honour and Senior Minister of State for National Development Desmond Lee (second from left) with (far left) K Gopalan (President of OSSEA), exhibitor of Grand Champion Plant Au Yong Kien Chung and Ong Bor Kia. Above: Show Chair John Elliott with CEO of Gardens By the Bay Dr Kiat Tan. Below: Mrs Mah Bow Tan with the award winning flower in her name, *Aranda* Sheryn-Kaye von Senden.



Nursery, was the best slipper orchid from a large field this year, and the best Arethusae was taken by a magnificent variegated *Spathoglottis* Garden City exhibited by the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Among amateurs, Christopher Teo, as so often, won the most points for the placings gained by his many plants, earning H.H. the Sultan of Johor's Perpetual Trophy [8].

The diversity of genera in this show provided the opportunity to see plants rarely seen here. An example was *Pleurothallis alvaroi*, [9] a cool-growing Colombian orchid. Others included miniatures such as *Haraella retrocalla* [10]; *Schoenorchis fragrans* [11] from Northern Thailand, India and Burma; the Brazilian *Phymatidium falcifolium* [12]; and *Pleurothallis truncata* [13], an epiphytic and sometimes lithophytic species found in Ecuador. A beautifully grown collection of different colour forms of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* [14], exhibited by the Singapore Botanic Gardens, almost filled an entire vivarium.

Other orchids not often seen were *Promenaea* Partridge 'A' [15], a primary hybrid of two Brazilian species (*stapeliodes* x *guttata*), which had two small but interestingly patterned flowers; and the New World *Maxillaria striata* [16] with its big flower. Hailing from the cloud forests of Ecuador were *Dracula vampira* [17] and *Dracula cordobae* [18] (commonly referred to as Monkey-Faced Orchids), which are rarely grown here due to their need for cool conditions and very clean water.

Also present were some unusual plants from common genera, such as *Phalaenopsis lobbii* with its small flowers some 2.5 cm high; the Vietnamese miniature *Dendrobium trantuanii*, [see cover photo]; *Dendrobium moniliforme*, another plant with variegated leaves, which is found on forest trees from Japan through Korea



1. Judging steward Sue Cheng makes last minute adjustments.
2. Peggy Yap (centre, foreground) and some of her volunteer team of OSSEA members at the OSSEA Marketplace booth.
3. Chief Steward Joseph Yeo adds up the scores.
4. Judging of champion plant is carried out by a show of hands.
5. K Gopalan and Mdm Krishnaveni at The Flower Dome's OSSEA information booth.



and China; and the Colombian *Masdevallia coccinea* [19] with its brilliant red flowers. Damrong Hongsaevatham of Thailand received a gold medal for his vibrant Japanese primary hybrid *Dendrobium Hibiki* [20] (*bracteosum* x *laevifolium*).

At the show, the public also saw a New World terrestrial, *Anguloa clowesii* [21], a beautiful yellow tulip-like orchid found at 2000 m in Colombia and Venezuela. They also saw a wonderful example of why *Oncidium* and its allies are commonly called Dancing Lady Orchids. From the picture of *Oncidium Ron's Rippling Delight* [22] (*fuscatum* x *schroederianum*) one can clearly see the lady's hands and head held high, and her swirling skirt, even her face, in the flowers.

Some local hybrids were also on display, including two new, yet-to-be-registered crosses exhibited by the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The first was a very big-flowered, spectacular,

Spatulata section hybrid, *Dendrobium* (Tengah Black Panther x *lasianthera*) [23]. The second was *Spathoglottis* (Seletar Park x *plicata*) [24]. These might be potential VIP orchids. Our own David Lim's recently registered *Vanda Norgard* GEM [25] showed perhaps a new trend in colour, pastel shades of pale blue with deep brown markings. Christopher Teo also exhibited his striking, yet-to-be-registered plant of *Vanda* (Kenny Gold x Suksamran Spots) [26].

The show had a very good collection of *Vandaceous* orchids. It was particularly nice to see the beautiful but difficult-to-grow *Vanda sanderiana*. This Philippine species (the Waling-Waling) is famous for its significant role in vandaceous hybridisation, being in the ancestry of over 6,300 hybrids. It was also a pleasure to see David Lim's *Paraphalaenopsis serpentilingua*, [pg 20-21] which received an Award of Merit from the OSSEA judges. The flowers had outstanding colour markings for the species, which is just one of four in the

The 6th Singapore Orchid Show 2016 (continued)

TROPHY	AWARD	WINNING EXHIBIT	EXHIBITOR
President's Challenge Cup	Grand Champion Plant	<i>Aranthera</i> James Storie x <i>Renanthera storiei</i>	Orchidwoods Co.
none	Reserve Champion	<i>Pinalia floribunda</i>	Gardens by the Bay
HH Sultan of Johor's Perpetual Trophy	Amateur with Highest score	-	Christopher Teo
The OSSEA Championship Cup	Exhibitor with greatest number of first places	-	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Yuen-Peng McNiece Challenge Cup	Best Specimen Plant	Woon Leng Nursery	
Penang Gardening Society Challenge Cup	Best Species	<i>Rhynchosstylis retusa</i>	Woon Leng Nursery
John Laycock Challenge Cup	Best Hybrid	<i>Aranthera</i> James Storie x <i>Renanthera storiei</i>	Orchidwoods Co.
Sum Lai Woh Memorial Challenge Cup	Best <i>Aerides</i> or 'Other Vandaceous' Species or Hybrid	<i>Rhynchosstylis retusa</i>	Woon Leng Nursery
Sun Kee Flower Shop Challenge Cup	Best Aranda	<i>Aranda</i> Sheryn-Kaye von Senden	SG Orchids
Lim Theng Hin Challenge Cup	Best <i>Renanthera</i> or Allied Hybrid	<i>Aranthera</i> James Storie x <i>Renanthera storiei</i>	Orchidwoods Co.
Lim Kay Soon Challenge Cup	Best <i>Renantanda</i>	<i>Renantanda</i> Faith-leelynzec	Chwee Nursery Pte Ltd
Nam Kee Nursery Challenge Cup	Best <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Hybrid	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Wendy Chew Shao Lay	Ng Boon Kwang
Chew Bin Chin Challenge Cup	Best <i>Phalaenopsis</i> or allied Species or Hybrid	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Sogo Yukidian	Woon Leng Nursery
Governor's Cup	Best Species or Hybrid with <i>Phal pulcherrima</i> characteristics	-	Not awarded
Orchidville Challenge Cup	Best <i>Paraphalaenopsis</i> Species or allied Hybrid	<i>Sweetara</i> Wong Yit Hoe	Neo Cheng Soon Farm
Koh Keng Hoe Challenge Cup	Best Strap-leaf <i>Vanda</i> Species or Hybrid excluding with <i>V sanderiana</i> strain	<i>Vanda lombokensis</i>	Neo Cheng Soon Farm
Chay Sing Hai Challenge Cup	Best <i>Vanda</i> Species or Hybrid with <i>V sanderiana</i> strain	<i>Vanda</i> (Charles Goodfellow x Dr Anek)	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Tan Kah Kee Challenge Cup	Best small flowered <i>Vanda</i> Species or Hybrid	<i>Papilionanda</i> Mimi Palmer 'Pink'	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Tan Hoon Siang Challenge Cup	Best <i>Papilionanda</i> Tan Chay Yan or Similar Hybrid	<i>Papilionanda</i> Pamela Jakubowicz	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Koh Cheng Kiang Challenge Cup	Best <i>Papilionanthe</i> Species or semi-terete Hybrid	<i>Papilionanthe</i> Miss Joaquim 'SBG'	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Lee Kim Hong Challenge Cup	Best <i>Papilionanda</i> or <i>Papilionanthe</i> multigeneric	<i>Papilionanda</i> Pure Delight	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Yeoh Bok Choon Challenge Cup	Best <i>Arachnis</i> Species or classic Hybrid	<i>Arachnis</i> Maroon Maggie	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Quek Kiah Huat Challenge Cup	Best <i>Dendrobium</i> or Allied Species	<i>Pinalia floribunda</i>	Gardens by the Bay
Bournemouth Cup	Best <i>Dendrobium</i> or Allied Species or Hybrid	<i>Pinalia floribunda</i>	Gardens by the Bay
Soh Kim Kang Challenge Cup	Best <i>Dendrobium</i> Hybrid	<i>Dendrobium</i> Jiahoo Delight	Damrong Hongsaevatham
Lewis Challenge Cup	Best <i>Cattleya</i> Alliance Species or Hybrid	<i>Cattleya</i> x <i>dolosa</i> (nat. hybr.)	Gardens by the Bay
Caltex Challenge Cup	Best <i>Paphiopedillum</i> or Allied Genera Species or Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedillum</i> Harold Koopwitz	Ching Hua Orchids
Richard Sng Memorial Cup	Best <i>Bulbophyllum</i> or Allied Species or Hybrid	<i>Bulbophyllum pecten-veneris</i>	Song Orchids
Mak Chin On Challenge Trophy	Best <i>Foliage</i> Orchid	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	Christopher Teo
Mandainia Challenge Cup	Best Other Species	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Marei Karge-Liphard
Tri- Products Challenge Cup	Best <i>Oncidium</i> or allied Hybrid	<i>Rossioglossum</i> Rawdon Jester 'Great Bee'	Gardens by the Bay
Woon Leng Nursery Challenge Cup	Best <i>Arethuseae</i>	<i>Spathoglottis</i> Garden City 'Variegated'	Singapore Botanic Gardens
Fraser & Neave Challenge Cup	Best Miniature Orchid	<i>Specklinia lanceola</i>	Gardens by the Bay
Wiltech Agrotechnology Challenge Cup	Best Other Hybrid	<i>Coelogyne</i> Orchideengarten Clara	Marei Karge-Liphard

genus and is found in the lowland swampy forests of Borneo.

There are many people to be thanked for their work behind the scenes at registration, setup, teardown, in the sales booth and in the secretariat, to make the show a success. A full appreciation and list of volunteers can be found in the Society's Bulletin for July & August 2016. In addition, as Show Chair, I gratefully acknowledge the help of the National Parks Board, and their staff, especially CEO Kenneth Er, Botanic Gardens Director Nigel Taylor, and David Lim, Manager of the National Orchid Garden; and the CEO of Gardens by the Bay Dr Kiat Tan and all his staff, especially Andrea Kee, Edwin Ong, Aloysius Joo and

Andy Kwek. The Agri-Veterinary Authority Singapore, and particularly Ong Ai Khim, kindly assisted in facilitating plant clearance at Changi Airport.

I would also like to thank all exhibitors and Judges, and special thanks must go to Lee Nam Fook, Cheah Wah Sang, Top Think Biotechnology, and Marei Karge-Liphard, for generously donating their exhibits to the Society, where they have been auctioned to eager buyers and thus contributed to restoring – somewhat – our depleted coffers, and increasing the happiness of OSSEA members.

John Elliott is a past President and currently the First Vice-President of the Orchid Society of South East Asia.