



Solihull & District Orchid Society



Malvern show

We look forward to seeing you all at Malvern International Orchid Show on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (14th, 15th and 16th June) with Tjin leading the team responsible for our first display for a few years. Don't miss it.

(Left) Our 2014 Malvern display and below four of our member's award winning plants from the Malvern show last year.



Masd. scitula



Dactylorhiza fuchsii "Andrea"



Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata



Masd. monicana



You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter



Chairman: Malcolm Moodie
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If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: LaeliaM@aol.com or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com
Society email address: www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk



Masdevallia scolina
- 32pts - Pat Bussy

June
Table
points
winners



Lycaste Garfield -
30pts - Lina Smalinske



Promenea Meadow Gold - 33pts
- Pat Bussy



Bulbophyllum eberhardtii -
31pts - Pat Bussy



Bulbophyllum carunculatum x
sulawesii - 31pts - Pat Bussy



Bletilla striata - 32pts Tjin Ong



Coelogyne ochracea - 33pts - Pat
Bussy



Ascocentrum miniatum - 31pts
Stan Taylor

*Next
Meeting*

At our next meeting we will welcome our own Colin Clay who will give us a talk on "Growing Hardy Orchids". There are 54 species endemic to the UK and many are becoming increasingly popular as wonderful plants to grow. It is also great that so many are now on the increase in the wild with many organisations keeping a watching brief on their habitats. Colin has for many years been interested in Hardy Orchids and I am sure that we will all learn a great deal from his talk. All of us have space for a few of these plants so don't miss Colin's presentation.

**For Sale –
Aluminium
Shading**

Martin Mitchell has a large piece of Aluminium Shading for sale. It measures 160 inches x 74 inches and is a bargain at £50.

Please contact Martin, if you are interested.
Email
martin.bulbo70@gmail.com
Tel. no. 0121 293 8955

Tricia King - Travels to Sulawesi

Tricia booked her tickets to Sulawesi in 2017 purely on an impulse and as a lot of OSGB members were going it sounded promising. At last she thought she would see a lot of *Coelogyne*, in situ, and finally learn how to grow them. After a few enquiries with the organising company she was convinced that this was going to be anything but hard, therefore she booked her flights immediately.

Sulawesi is in Indonesia, near Java and Borneo and not too far from Papua New Guinea. It's a strangely shaped island which used to be known as the Celebes (cell- ebs) and orchids such as *Coelogyne celebensis* and *Dendrobium sulawesense* (*glomeratum*) show that they're from this island.



After much research Tricia had packed everything needed to meet every eventuality and 24 hours later found herself in Makassar airport. The 15 day trip organized by Redfern Natural History Expeditions included twelve days on a minibus driving through South and Central Sulawesi with numerous orchid stops with days 12 – 15 involving 3 internal flights– Palu to Makassar, Makassar to Manado and Manado to Makassar.

On the first day, the planned 7 hour drive to the Torajan Highlands turned out to be 13½ hours arriving at 9 pm at night indicating to Tricia that this



wasn't going to be as easy as she expected.

The hotel for the next four nights was built in the distinctive Torajan style: legend has it, that Torajans arrived on the island by boat and then reused the boats as the roof. It was in desperate need of repair, due to the lack of money from tourism caused by recent terrorist attacks.

However, what was promising was that she

spotted orchids in the hotel garden.

The Torajan people are mostly Christian, but they also strongly believe that their ancestors watch over them and bring good or bad luck. Buffalo are slaughtered at funerals, so that their spirits can take the dead to the afterlife. The more buffalo the faster you get there, the higher the status and the happier your relatives will be. The distinctive Torajan buildings are on 3 floors, with multiple generations living on the middle floor, animals below and their dead above (treated with preservatives) until they can afford the funeral. They have open fireplaces for cooking and cold running water.

The toilet is generally a footplate on a concrete plinth with a concrete cistern or plastic bin next to it and there's no toilet paper. There is a plastic ladle

to clean yourself and flush the toilet; no-one gives you a lesson on how to do this without soaking yourself.

Tricia skipped the walking trips, on the first 3 days due to health but instead explored the culture and local people. As it turned out she saw more orchids than the rest of the group.

The next stop was Lake Poso, where the group had to take a boat across to the next hotel due to the road around the lake being badly rutted. On the way they stopped along the way at an orchid sanctuary but sadly, with none in flower.

The next day was spent in a "moss forest" where a lot of trees had been felled and left with orchids on them. Much to her surprise she saw a large number of orchids growing on rocks. It was damp and humid even though it was a dry season and when it rained it really poured, so orchids get a regular drenching with the very free draining soils soon making everything bone dry again.

The next day took them through a flattish area with hills and dales but it rained all day!

When they arrived at a rocky area the guide suddenly yelled 'Coelogyne!' and Tricia leapt out and ran to a sheer rock face covered with 3 – 4 ft tall plants of *Coelogyne multiflora*. Unfortunately none were in flower!

Shortly after they spotted *Coelogyne prasina* which has very long rhizomes and pseudobulbs that are widely spaced and it was in flower which made her day. This turned out to be the only flowering *Coelogyne* seen throughout the whole trip.

The next day, the group visited another 'moss forest' although it was more forested than the first one as it was within Lore Lindu National Park. The group, less Tricia, set off looking for *Paphiopedilums* while Tricia stayed at the Park Centre on the tarmac road, where she saw orchids in the trees with a couple in flower and also found a deserted shade house where there were several orchids in flower and a *Coelogyne celebensis* although, once again, without flowers.

The next day was a full day on the bus, to get to Palu and a modern hotel with flushing toilets. Before flying back to Makassar for the return journey the group took a plane to Manado and Tankoko at the north of the island, spending a lovely couple of days seeing animals and lazing on a coral beach.

If anyone was to embark on a similar trip Tricia advised that there were a number of things to do to avoid awkward situations.

However, the people are very cheerful with large smiles but unfortunately; they do not appear to treasure orchids or the primary rain forest.

Finally, make sure you take a camera with a really good zoom lens.



Lina Smalinske