

# WOSA 3 Conference

# Dullstroom

19-21 January 2018

**WILD ORCHIDS  
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

WOSA is a public benefit and non-profit organisation  
Registration numbers: PBO 930050871; 141-119NPO



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Note: Detailed location data of indigenous orchid and endangered species sightings presented at the Conference have been removed from the papers in these Proceedings as a precautionary measure. Should you require access to this information please contact the respective speakers.

## **CHAIRMANS ADDRESS**

### **WOSA3 Dullstroom 2018**

Bill Mincher WOSA Chairman  
Presented in his absence by  
Mr. Karsten Wodrich WOSA Vice Charman

#### **WELCOME**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Third National Conference.

Since the launch of WOSA at the 21st World Orchid Conference a lot has happened although it seems like only yesterday. We have registered as a Non-Profit Organisation and a Public Benefit Organisation which allows us to issue certificates for donations and tax relief for the donors. We have received two important donations one from Mark Shuttleworth for the launch of WOSA and creation of the Wetland at 21st World Orchid Conference. The other was a donation from Nicky and Strillie Oppenheimer for the printing of the Flowers of Verloren Valei Guide and they also assisted the Proteadal Conservation Association with initial funding for the Albertina Sisulu Orchid court case.

#### **WOSA FLAGSHIP PROJECT**

The Albertina Sisulu Orchid Project is an important initiative. Kay Montgomery recommended that we find a popular name for the *Brachycorythis conica* subsp. *transvaalensis* and the popular name of Albertina Sisulu Orchid was accepted and has proved to be very popular and has been a great success. There aren't many common names to our Orchids and in keeping with flowers, trees and shrubs, who are finding or creating common names where they become more user friendly and useable by the public. We are after all trying to educate the public on the existence of indigenous Orchids and this will be easier with common names in

addition to their scientific names. The objective after all is to create a better appreciation for our Orchids thus increasing their value and subsequent conservation status.

We are encouraged by the effort put in by Andrew Hankey and Belinda Cooper and the Proteadal Conservation Association. The Proteadal Conservation Association appeal against the GDARD MEC's ROD will be heard in the High Court soon. The Proteadal Conservation Association have ambitious plans to manage and develop the Greater Roodekrans Ridges which join up with the Cradle of Mankind. Andrew will be talking about this later today.

WOSA and The Greater Roodekrans Black Eagle Project will hold two separate Crowd Funding initiatives during 2018 and the Proteadal Conservation Association will also hold a Golf day to raise funds to support the legal costs.

#### **THE MYCORRHIZA PROJECT**

Important research is being conducted by Prof. Jo Dames of Rhodes University and Prof. Almuth Hammerbacher of the Pretoria University. We will hear more about this topic later on today. The findings of this research will give us a better understanding of this critical facet in conservation and propagation of our orchids. We thank the Universities for their support of this important initiative

Later this afternoon we will hold the Albertina Sisulu Orchid Workshop. We welcome the involvement of Prof Craig Peter, Prof Steve Johnson, Prof Jo Dames, Prof Almuth Hammerbacher and all the students that are making a contribution in this research project. We must also acknowledge the contribution of Karsten Wodrich who is doing a lot of laboratory work in propagation, and Andrew Hankey

the assistant curator of the WSNBG for his considerable input.

## **WOC22**

WOC22 in Guayaquil, Ecuador in November 2017 was a grand affair. Walter Pidgoen was responsible for the programme and the proceedings and made it a condition that presentations had to be submitted a month before the conference. This makes publication of the Proceedings a lot easier and reduces the risk of no shows by presenters.

Ecuagenera, built an extra-large stand (a new category for this exhibition), which featured 960 orchid species and over 2000 plants all in all, including duplicates, hybrids, bromeliads and ferns. An amazing spectacle. They received the gold medal for this exhibit category and were also awarded Show Champion with their miniature *Dendrobium parvulum* 'Gigi'.

Ecuador is the orchid capitol of the world with 4032 species plus another 400 being described of which 1714 of the 4032 being endemic. The large stand Gold Medal went to Thailand (the same design they had for 21st World Orchid Conference) although I felt it should have gone to Singapore which received the Silver medal in the extra-large exhibit and could not be entered in two categories. The medium category went to Taiwan and the small to Germany.

After the Conference we went on a post conference tour and were able to see many orchids in their natural habitat.

Ecuador are confronted by the same problems that confront us, the loss of habitat due to deforestation for timber and farming and a lack of support by the authorities to take a lead in the preservation of land for the conservation of orchids. I was surprised to see the Proteaceous Leucadendron Pin-cushion

growing like weeds to 3 times the size that they do in Cape Town.

We stayed at Ecuagenera in Gualaceo, Ecuador, where we met up with an English Student who related her involvement in setting up orchid meadows in England, some only 10 acres in size on private land to protect some of the 50 orchid species they have in Great Britain. This must be the other end of the scale.

## **PROMOTION**

Leading up to this conference, an article was run in the Orchid Society of Great Britain Journal promoting the Conference in the hope of getting some foreign delegates, which didn't materialize.

Prof Craig Peter attended WOC22 as a speaker delivering a paper on the Albertina Sisulu Orchid. SANBI displayed a poster on the Albertina Sisulu Orchid Project which was also used at the DeBeers Conference in October. I was hoping to meet possible donors for the Albertina Sisulu Orchid Project, without any success. As usual it is a great venue for networking.

Our website [www.wildorchids.co.za](http://www.wildorchids.co.za) progressed to displaying 240 species of the 480 in the Gallery. I am always amazed at the number of hits which has reached 48,000 at the rate of 3000 per month until an Internet 'fundi' reminded me that this site is open to the World Wide audience.

We have not made enough progress in completing the capture of pics and will need a lot more support from citizen Scientists and enthusiasts to complete the task.

Apart from the pics a huge task of adding text awaits us. Gerrit has agreed to make a start and we would appreciate more volunteers to offer their services.

Our Facebook Page has seen an improvement in quality and frequency of postings. Allan Abel would appreciate more assistance from CREW and Society field trips and WOSA Member Trips for the organizers to send a few pics and a line or two to Allen to post on Facebook. This is our visiting card and carries a strong message.

#### **AGM**

These are not exciting events but are required in terms of our Constitution and Non-Profit Organisation and Public Benefit Organisation regulations. A request from one of the KwaZulu-Natal members is that she would like to attend an AGM and Jimmy Pauck suggested that we hold it on the first evening of the annual Conference. We will try it this year and make the necessary changes to the date in the Constitution at the next conference.

WOSA has taken on the mantle of conserving our indigenous Orchids. We are the WOSA community and should measure up to that responsibility by becoming paid up members. A copy of the membership application form is in your pack if you need it or pass it on to a friend. Your support will be appreciated and will help us to achieve our objectives.

#### **WOSA4**

The next conference will be held in Drakensberg Gardens on 25-27 January 2019. This will give the KwaZulu Natal Chapter the opportunity of building support and giving local members the opportunity to attend the conference and get involved with KwaZulu Natal Chapter affairs. It will also showcase the Drakensberg Orchids. We have arranged a good rate at Goodersons and there are a number of other resorts in the vicinity and up-country delegates may well book an extra day and join the Friday morning and afternoon Field trips. The road is suitable

for cars but has potholes and is not very fast, you should allow 7-8 hours from Johannesburg. Julie and Richard Braby are neighbors of Goodersons where it may be held, negotiations are still under way. Julie is in charge of the local crew CREW and is knowledgeable on local Orchids.

#### **VERLOREN VALEI**

We have a new manager in Phumzile Khosa and plan to move ahead this year. A start has been made in completing the perimeter fence and Hannes Marais, Chairman of the Mpumalanga Wetland Group has obtained funds to repair the road. Tonight, over dinner Gerrit will give us a short talk on plans for guiding on the reserve.

#### **WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR WOSA**

- The question is are we as an organization on the right track?
- Are we effective and is there more that we should be doing for conservation of the 480 indigenous Orchids?
- What activity is or isn't happening in the rest of the country?
- What can be done to increase the size and commitment of the Wild Orchid Supporters and wild orchid family?
- How can we get the necessary pictures to complete the website gallery?
- Are we happy with the website design?
- Are we happy with the Facebook pages?
- Should we use any other social media platforms?

- Is our structure satisfactory and are there ways of improving it?
- Are there any members that would volunteer their services for any of the management positions?
- One of the important tasks of any organization is succession planning?
- I committed to forming WOSA and to serve on the committee for two years.
- We have been in existence for three years and I turn 80 this September and would like to hand over to a younger man or woman to continue with the work.
- Lastly, I must express my appreciation to all the speakers for their contribution in making this an interesting and enjoyable conference.
- I must not forget the back room boys and girls in Karsten Wodrich vice Chairman, Allan Abel controlling Facebook, Ines Neto our Registrar, Marinus Kort our sound and communications expert, Duncan MacFarlane our treasurer and Gallery manager, Andre van Wyk who does our audit and in always willing to help. Erhard Schmid and Chris Steckner, committee members. Gerrit van Ede in charge of VV guides, and Lourens Grobler and his guides at Long Tom Pass. Once again, I must mention Andrew Hankey who is going to produce the proceedings for this Conference.