

# The Orchid Review

Volume 121 No 1301

March 2013 ISSN: 0030-4476

Published by: RHS Media, Churchgate,  
New Road, Peterborough PE1 1TT, UK

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Annual subscription (four issues):  
Without new hybrid list £29 (UK)  
Overseas: airmail £37.  
With new hybrid list  
(published quarterly) £34 (UK)  
Overseas: airmail £44.

Subscriptions, back issues and missed  
issue enquiries: *The Orchid Review*,  
RHS Membership Subscriptions,  
PO Box 313, London SW1P 9YR, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7821 3401  
Email: [membership@rhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@rhs.org.uk)  
Online subscriptions:  
[www.rhs.org.uk/orchidreview](http://www.rhs.org.uk/orchidreview)

Binders from: Modern Bookbinders  
Website: [www.modernbookbinders.co.uk](http://www.modernbookbinders.co.uk)

Printed by: Stephens & George, Goat  
Mill Road, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil, UK  
Website: [www.stephensandgeorge.co.uk](http://www.stephensandgeorge.co.uk)

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222879/SC038262



James Forsyth

**I**N THIS ISSUE Liz Johnson writes about the relaunch of the RHS Award of Garden Merit. This indicator of excellence in the plant world is now being awarded to outstanding tropical and temperate orchids. It will prove a useful tool when buying plants for new and experienced orchid growers alike. Liz looks at the history of the award, instituted in 1922, and the recent work of the RHS Orchid Committee in deciding 35 new AGMs. She reveals which orchids have been awarded, and starts a new series to profile every AGM orchid, starting with seven plants in this issue, and explaining why each of them is such a great performer.

I am really pleased to report that the UK's annual, international orchid show has found a new home. It's farewell to Peterborough, and hello Malvern, as PIOS becomes MIOS! The Three Counties Showground will host the orchid show from 14–16 June, as part of the Three Counties

Show. The venue is in a beautiful location at the foot of the Malvern Hills. Many exhibitors have already confirmed their stands, including British orchid societies, and more than 20 nurseries from the UK and around the world. For more information see News p7, and visit the show website: [www.malvern-ios.org](http://www.malvern-ios.org)

Looking further afield, the next World Orchid Conference is coming up in 2014. The 21st WOC will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 9–14 September. Registration forms are now available on the new website: [www.woc21.org](http://www.woc21.org). The website will be updated regularly with further information about the venue, judging, lectures and associated orchid tours. Look out for updates in future issues of *The Orchid Review* too, as well as an article by Johan Hermans, Chairman of the WOC Trust, who will be writing about his recent visit to Johannesburg and the preparations underway there in advance of the show.

I am really looking forward to the 2013 RHS London Orchid Show, which this year will be held in April rather than March. The preview evening is on Thursday 11 April, and the show runs from Friday 12 to Saturday 13. I will have my usual stand and hope to see you there.

Sarah Forsyth

## FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH



Australian species *Pyrorchis nigricans* is known locally as undertaker orchid, it flowers prolifically following a wildfire (p26–33)

Photograph: Johan Hermans

## NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

We welcome suggestions for future features, but please contact us first with a synopsis of your idea. Features will preferably be accompanied by high resolution, digital images – of at least 300 dpi. Good quality transparencies, or colour prints, are also acceptable.

■ News items to Jean Stowe, tel: 01733 294637, email: [news@rhspublications.co.uk](mailto:news@rhspublications.co.uk)



David Ridgeway

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<b>Orchids given an Award of Garden Merit</b> Examining why the RHS has included tropical orchids as well as temperate orchids in the relaunched Award of Garden Merit. The history of the award is also covered, and we begin a new series profiling the outstanding orchids, and the excellent qualities that gained each of them an AGM. LIZ JOHNSON	34–41
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