



monthly bulletin vol. 45 no. 1

january 09

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Meetings held at the Uniting Church Hall, cnr. Flora and Merton St., Sutherland on the Second Monday of the Month. All Visitors Welcomed. Visit our Website on www.ssos.org.au

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Minutes from the December 08 Meeting.

In opening our final meeting of the year, the President welcomed all in attendance, tending a warm greeting to the President of O.S. of N.S.W. Mr. Geoffrey Fulcher and his wife Mrs Jean Fulcher, the Secretary of O.S. of N.S.W. Veronica Clues, Gary and Lesley Bromley.

The minutes as published in the November Bulletin were passed as a true and correct record of the meeting, passed on a motion by M. Hannah.

Correspondence.

Bulletins from Societies.
 Australian Orchid Review.
 Orchids Australia.. (with a picture of Nev.
 Ropers award winning Sarco. Duno Nicky's Twin
 'Voo Doo' AM-AD/AOC awarded the Award of
 Distinction of the Year.

Murray then called on Mr. Fulcher to present Neville with his award from the A.O.C. – a great achievement.

Murray also made mention of Mrs. Myra Chalmers, Ian's mother, (who was also the wife of one of the Society's previous Presidents, the late Mr. Ron Chalmers). She had been honoured for her work in the local community of Cook for her volunteer work in the St. Geo. and Sutherland Support group of Parkinson's NSW and the Caringbah Garden Club. She was in attendance and the members extended their appreciation on the award.

Our January meeting will be our Seedling of the Year Competition. Dennis Wood, our photographer

presents the monthly competition slides for your viewing, and voting for our seedling of the year. The President then proceeded with the giving of Certificates and prizes to the various section winners, offering congratulations to Sandra Crosby and Tony Costa on winning the Overall Point Score with a combination score of 640 points. The Rona Goudie Trophy was won by Treasurer Geo. Birss. A full list of annual points and trophy winners is attached. Our thanks to Ted Beehag for recording and tallying the point scores.

The point score starts again with the December Meeting. Please note that two more members were elevated from Novice to Intermediate which includes the December meeting – Michael Hitchcock and Daniel Coulton.

Murray then presented a gift to members who had worked tirelessly on behalf of the Society throughout the past year for our benefit, and thanked all the donors for the gifts to the giant raffle, and a special thanks to "Auntie" Madge Errington and her daughter Karen for the food preparation, with a thank you also to the many donors who donated the excellent plates of Xmas fair

The meeting closed with one and all, wishing each other a Happy and safe Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Judges Roster for JANUARY.

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3
LEAD JUDGE	K WILSON	E BEEHAG	I CHALMERS
JUDGE	N ROPER	G HART	D BROOKS
JUDGE	S T HO	J HART	W CHAPMAN
ASSOC.	J ROBINSON	J MOSS	R BISETTO
WRITER	D COULTON	S CROSBY	M HITCHCOCK

Dates to Remember.

12th. January SSOS meeting, Point Score Benching, Slides of the Seedling Comp.
9th. February SSOS meeting, Point Score Benching, Beginners Class starting at 7:30 pm.(See details below) Neville Roper to talk on Sarcophilus.

Across the Secretary's Desk.

Welcome back to Archie Mitsios to the Society after a long break.

The Beginners Class starts again in February, starting at 7:30 pm. Please bring in 2 plants you need help with, or have concern with.

The committee have decided to have a "get together" for members who have joined the Society within the last year. This will probably be held at Jan. Robinson's home in February 2009. More information to follow.

Members are reminded that they can purchase from the sales table, as well as our usual range of products, 2009 Orchid Calenders, Cards and Place Mats.

The Society may be placing a bulk order for name badges. If interested please see the Secretary.

Did you win a prize voucher at the Winter Show at Swanes Nursery? Then you only have to the end of this year to cash it in. Please check the date on the voucher.

There will be no Committee Meeting for January.

Someone has left behind a Raffle Prize, this was found behind the Drinks Table, contact the Secretary if it belongs to you.

Trophies 2008

Annual Point Score - S Crosby & T Costa
Paphiopedilum - S T Ho
Cymbidium - C Fraser
Cattleya - J Hart
Oncidium - S Crosby & T Costa
Pleurothallis - G Hart
Native & Native Hybrid
- N Roper
Species - G Hart
Miscellaneous - S Crosby & T Costa
Novice - D Coulton

Intermediate - G Birss
Rona Gouldie Trophy –
G Birss

Annual Point Score Results 2008.

Open

S Crosby & T Costa	640
G Hart	616
S T Ho	330
N Roper	329
J Hart	257
D Wood	215
J & M Moss	146
W & J Chapman	90
R Moar	81
P Wheeler	75
K Wilson	69
C Fraser	69
T Thorburn	69
W Hoogwerf	63
L Gannon	51
M Errington	47
E Beehag	47
A & E Marks	30
T & J Hyde	27
J Costa	19
R & J Ettrick	18
A & E Holsted	9
I Chalmers	2
B Smith	2

Intermediate

G Birss	316
S Vavayis	69
D & M Hannah	57
T Costa	42

Novice

D Coulton	176
J Robinson	84
M Luk	82
M Hitchcock	45
R Bissetto	19
G Dodd	18
B Warren	10
J Calnan	5
B & J Zammit	5
E Korpi	5

GOOD GROWING TO ONE AND ALL IN 2009.

MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : Dec-08

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE (If Winner is Species, 2nd will be a Hybrid & vice v

Winner C. walkeriana 'Kenny' S Crosby/T Costa
Second Paph. Berenice S T Ho

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Onc. spacelatum D Coulton

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Onc. unknown B Pethybridge

CULTURAL CLASS

Winner Onc. spacelatum D Coulton

CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st Plectorrhiza tridentata N Roper
2nd Sarco. ceciliae (Lost World x Deep Pink) S Crosby/T Costa
3rd Dockrillia toressae R Moar

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. victoria-regina S T Ho
2nd Paph. lowii S T Ho
3rd Paph. moquettianum S T Ho
4th Paph. moquettianum S T Ho

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. Berenice S T Ho
2nd Paph. St. Swithin G Hart
3rd Paph. St. Swithin 'Dorkei' K. Wilson
4th Paph. Houghtoniae G Hart

CLASS # 5 CATTLEYA OVER 80 TO 110mm

1st C. loddigessii 'Blue Sky' x C. walkeriana S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 8 CATTLEYA UP TO 80mm

1st Bc. Island Charm 'Carmela' x Sc. Lana Coryell M Errington
2nd Lc. Chit Chat 'Tangerine' J Hart

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN

1st Aerides rosea R Moar
2nd Den. mohlianum G Hart
3rd Aerides rosea R Moar
4th Coel. fragians G Hart
5th Dendro. pangasinanense G Hart

CLASS # 11 PHALAENOPSIS

1st Phal. (Lippstadt x Koombana Rose) x Lippefalke S Crosby/T Costa
2nd Phal. Ever Spring 'Pioneer' S Crosby/T Costa
3rd Phal. Ever Spring 'Pioneer Champion' S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

1st Sarco. (Pinkhart x Lois) x hirticalcar N Roper
2nd Prom. Crawshayana x guttata N Roper
3rd Sarco. Velvet N Roper
4th Dtps. Taisuco Sweet x Taisuco Firebird D Wood

CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM

1st Onc. Space Race K. Wilson
2nd Onc. Jinbao Gold 'M' J & M Moss
3rd Onc. Sydney M Errington
4th Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' R Moar

CLASS # 14 NOVELTY PHALAENOPSIS UNDER 75mm

1st Phal. Haur Jin Princess D Wood
2nd Phal. Brother Golden Wish 'Taipei Gold' S Crosby/T Costa
3rd Phal. Dragon Dazzler S Crosby/T Costa
4th Phal. Brother 'Sarah Gold' S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE

1st Colm. Wildcat 'Carnivale' S Crosby/T Costa
2nd Tolu. Stoplight 'Guy' R Bisetto
3rd Odcdm. Wildcat 'Bobcat' S T Ho
4th Dgmra. Winter Wonderland 'White Fairy' S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS

1st Phrag. Grande K. Wilson
2nd Coel. Burfordiense N Roper
3rd Prom. Catarina N Roper
4th Prom. Catarina N Roper

CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS

1st Den. unknown I Chalmers
2nd Den. Gatton Sunray J & M Moss
3rd Den. atroviolaceum x speciosum I Chalmers

CLASS # 18 VANDACEOUS NOT VANDA

1st Sartylis Blue Knob J & M Moss
2nd Ascda. Sufun Beauty 'Orange Belle' J Hart

CLASS # 19 MASDEVALLIA & DRACULA SPECIES

1st Drac. lotaf R Moar
2nd Masd. Sp 'kuelap' R Moar
3rd Masd. coccinea R Moar

CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS

1st Masd. Magic Dragon G Hart
2nd Masd. Bill Bergstrom W & J Chapman

CLASS # 21B LAELINAE SPECIES

1st Cat. walkeriana 'Kenny' S Crosby/T Costa
2nd Prosthecea prismatorarpum T Thorburn
3rd L. briegeri G Hart
4th Prosthecea pentostis R Moar

CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Max. cucullata D Wood
2nd Brassia verrucosa J Hart
3rd Dichea glauca R Bisetto
4th Milt. flavescens 'Sunburst' J & M Moss

CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES

1st Pleuro. grobyii I Chalmers

CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID

1st Sarco. Fitzhart x hirticalcar N Roper
2nd Sarco. Velvet S Crosby/T Costa
3rd Sarco. Red Imp 'Dappled' N Roper
4th Sarco. Fitzhart x hirticalcar N Roper

CLASS # 28 NOVICE - CATTLEYA

1st Lc. unknown M Luk

CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS

1st Onc. unknown B Pethybridge
2nd Phal. unknown M Luk
3rd Phal. unknown M Luk
4th Phal. unknown M Luk

CLASS # 31 INTERMEDIATE - PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. Winston Churchill x Haynesworld J Robinson

CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - CATTLEYA

1st Slc. Tangerine Jewel x Lc. Golden Sparkle D & M Hannah

CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS

1st Masd. Hot Chili M Hitchcock
2nd Onc. unknown J Robinson
3rd Odontocidium Lorraine's Fourteenth Woc J Robinson
4th Tolu. Sizzler x Rsm. Durras J Robinson

CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES

1st Onc. spacelatum D Coulton
2nd Dendro. filiforme M Hitchcock
3rd Pleuro. stricta D Coulton
4th Max. tenuifolia J Robinson

STAKING CYMBIDIUMS

(Written by Alan Hope for the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc)

Those of you who have cymbidiums in spike will have noticed that many of the spikes are now extending at a fairly rapid pace. Once they reach a length of about 200 mm they maybe staked. However, you must use your discretion, because some spikes need to develop more fully to provide enough flexibility to allow staking, tying and training. In fact, some varieties cannot be effectively trained at all, and you will need to allow the spike to follow its natural inclination. Flower spikes seem to fit into three categories. Those that grow relatively straight and upright, those that have an arching habit and those that are pendulous. Many of the Cymbidium devonianum

hybrids, such as Cym. Bulbarrow falls into the last category, as do some of the good green and red large and intermediate flowered hybrids. The only advice that can be given is to let the spike do their own thing and allow them to cascade. Sometimes the emerging spike will decide to follow the surface of the compost or try to burrow into it and you need to correct this problem. An effective solution is to place one end of a plastic label under the emerging spike and the other end on the rim of the pot. This creates an upward-sloping ramp that the flower spike will follow over the rim.

For relatively straight spikes insert a stake away from the edge of the pot and in a position where you imagine the flowers will be seen to their best advantage. Try to work from a position either in front of or behind the spike to reduce the chances of catching a sleeve on the buds and breaking them off. Start tying at the base of the spike using one of the soft plastic and wire twisty-ties and progress towards the top. Avoid forcing the spike at this stage as you may break it. Do not use any more ties than you feel are necessary, as judges may penalize excessive tying. You may consider removing some of the ties once you have transported your plant to the meeting or show.

An effective way of straightening a leaning spike into an upright position is to use a long piece of twisty-tie, which you can tighten gradually every few days. Some growers attach a piece of hat elastic to the spike below the topmost bud and fasten the other end of the elastic to a clothes peg clipping onto a long stake. The clothes peg is slid up the stake until the elastic is just taut, so that the spike is gradually straightened. The clothes peg needs upward adjustment every few days. When the spike has stopped growing, tie it as described above.

Other growers place a horizontal wire above the plant and hitch the spike to this with elastic or with spring-loaded 'yo-yos'. In either case care is required as the topmost bud can be easily broken off if too much force is applied. Leave the spike to 'set' in its final position, otherwise it will have little strength and may droop, or even break, when the elastic is eventually removed.

For those spikes with an arching or decorative habit, insert the stake at the desired angle and tie only up to the start of the curvature or arch. Keep the tie at this point looser than usual to allow the spike to move around a little as it grows; otherwise the weight of the developing buds may cause the

spike to kink at the position of the last tie and eventually snap. With arching spikes it is necessary to let the spike develop its own strength, that is, to be largely self-supporting. However, it is a good idea to position and tie a temporary stake away from the main stem to support the arching section before transporting such plants to a meeting or show, as arching spikes are easily broken in transit.

Finally, remember to stake your spikes late in warmth of the day when the sap is flowing, rather than early on a cold morning when the stem will be brittle and easily snapped.

PROPAGATION OF ORCHIDS

by David P. Banks

By Division. This is the most common and simplest method of reproducing orchids in your collection. It should be done only with larger plants, preferably at a time coinciding with the start of the plant's main growth cycle. With most orchids this is early spring. Actually, most orchids initiate their growth cycles just after the winter equinox. This highlights the fact that many orchids (and other plants) initially respond more quickly to an increase in day length than to rising temperature. In most cases when dividing plants, use divisions with four or more growths. Smaller pieces will take longer to re-establish and may not bloom in the following season. Paphiopedilums and phragmipediums grow and flower better as larger plants. It's therefore best not to cut the plants to make divisions, simply to separate any 'natural' divisions that fall apart whilst re-potting. Take the plant out of its pot and remove the old mix and any dead roots. Look at the growth of the plant and decide where any divisions should take place. If you are not sure at this stage, it may be best to simply put the plant into a slightly larger pot with fresh mix. If you have decided that you are going to divide the plant, make a vertical cut through the rhizome halfway between the pseudobulbs. The cut areas may be dusted with sulphur powder, or may be simply dried for about an hour before potting.

Always use sharp secateurs that have been sterilised in a saturated sugar soap solution for at least five minutes, or heated to near glowing point. This is done to help prevent the spread of virus and other unwanted diseases. Remember to sterilise your secateurs or cutting implements before moving on to another plant. Finally, don't forget to label your plants. Apart from the plant name, I also like to include the month and year of re-potting and any interesting history about the plant (who it came from, price, country of origin or collection data, date of acquisition, blooming season) – you are limited only by the size of the plant tag! UV stabilised tags still seem to last only a few years (due to deterioration by exposure to light), so it's best to push them right into the pot, or tie them behind the mount. Fine, permanent

black felt markers are good, but tend to fade with age. The good old lead pencil (about 3B) is not as aesthetically appealing, but it sure is permanent.

By Back-cutting. This is also a great way to develop specimen plants of the sympodial growth types. The plant does not need to be re-potted. It works best with genera that have an exposed rhizome and non-clustered pseudobulbs. Simply make a full vertical cut halfway between the pseudobulbs at intervals of three or four growths. This will activate dormant eyes into new growth, often within weeks. This process is best done in late winter or early spring. It works particularly well with members of the Cattleya alliance, Coelogyne, Dendrobium, Encyclia and Miltonia. Remember to sterilise your secateurs or cutting implements before repeating the process with another plant.

From Back-bulbs. Whole pots of cymbidiums with dried and leafless back-bulbs look fairly sad, even when they are in bloom. These back-bulbs are not offering anything of value to the plant; they are simply an "insurance policy" in case disaster strikes the main growing section. When dividing your cymbidiums (and try to keep divisions to at least three pseudo-bulbs), cut away the back-bulbs (do them individually), remove the dried husks from each bulb and cut off all the roots. Each of these bulbs should have a dormant "eye" which should shoot if it is healthy. These back-bulbs may be planted either in a community pot or separately in standard cymbidium potting mixture or fine bark. Sphagnum moss may also be used, provided that you make sure it doesn't remain permanently wet. I like to bury back-bulbs to about a third of their length. Then just treat as per your other plants, with perhaps a little more shade. Keep an eye out for any rot (any rotting bulbs will obviously need to be removed and discarded). You should see a new shoot emerge in three to six months. It generally takes three or four years for these plants to flower but it is worth the wait for choice cultivars.

Of course not only cymbidiums provide us with back-bulbs that can be used for propagation. Many other orchids can be grown from back-bulbs, provided their dormant eyes have not expired. Other genera that can be grown from single back-bulbs include Calanthe, Catasetum, Coelia, Phaius and Zygopetalum. Some genera will only "strike" if a cluster of two or three bulbs is used. Included in this category are Ada, Anguloa, Ansellia, Biftenaria, Brassia, Bulbophyllum, Cattleya, Coelogyne, Coryanthes, Cuitlauzina, Dendrobium, Dendrochilum, Encyclia, Gongora, Laelia, Lycaste, Maxillaries, Miltonia, Odontoglossum, Oncidium, Osmoglossum, Pholidota, Rhyncholaelia, Rossioglossum and Stanhopea. Use the same potting medium as you would for adult plants.

Cuttings. You don't often think of cuttings as a way of propagating orchids. But there are a number of vigorous, rambling sympodial species (with wandering pseudo-bulbs that produce aerial roots along the

rhizome) that can have small divisions, of at least four pseudo-bulbs, taken off them without disturbing the main plant. This is generally the case with small-growing, mounted plants or those that frequently climb over the edge of the pot — some by quite a distance! Genera with representatives that may be propagated this way include Bulbophyllum, Coelogyne, Dendrobium, Dockrillia, Mediocalcar and Neolauchea. Some robust monopodial orchids may also be multiplied by cutting off the top of the plant when it becomes "leggy", provided there are at least three or four healthy roots to support the severed section. The base of the plant will re-shoot, often in more than one place. This method of propagation is common practice with many "vandaceous-type" orchids such as Aerides, Angraecum, Ascocentrum, Doritis, Jumellea, Sarcochilus (the lithophytic species) and Vanda. This method is also successful for species of the vine-like genus Vanilla.

Aerial Growths. The production of aerial growths is an excellent means of propagation. These are growths produced randomly along sections of pseudobulbs, generally the leafless older ones. Leave these aerals (or "keikis" as they are sometimes known) on the mother plant for at least twelve months. By then the leaves should have lost their "glossy" appearance and have their own root system. Often it is best to wait until the aerial growth produces a new growth before removal. There is rarely need to cut these aerial growths, as most will easily twist off in your hand. These young plants, once they have matured, establish very quickly when potted or mounted. Genera with representatives that frequently produce aerial growths include Dendrobium, Epidendrum, Grastidium and Neobenthamia. Many Restrepia and Pleurothallis species will also produce young plants from the axis of older leaves.

Aerial Bulbs. Small "bulbils" sometimes grow in the "crater" left at the top of Pleione bulbs after they have dropped their leaves. Although these bulbils are frequently used to propagate Pleione species and their hybrids, it's not a particularly common form of natural propagation of other orchid genera. Pleione bulbils may take several years to flower. They are best removed in late winter and placed in community pots and treated as seedlings. Sometimes stressed or damaged plants that normally would not multiply this way will produce aerial bulbs as a last attempt to reproduce. I have seen examples of this in Anguloa, Ansellia, Barkeria, Brassia, Calanthe, Catasetum, Coelogyne, Diplocaulobium, Lycaste, Odontoglossum, Oncidium, Phaius and Zygopetalum.

Stem Cuttings. This is a productive method to multiply the terrestrial genus Thunia. I do this in summer, when the plants are in bloom. First cut off the previous season's leafless cane about 6 cm from the base of the plant (don't touch the current leafy growth). Leave the cut piece for a couple of days to seal the wound, then drop it into a tall pot containing Sphagnum

moss to a depth of about 5 cm. New plants will form over the next few months. I have produced blooming plants within two years by using this method. There are other variations of this method - some involve cutting the stem into sections, whilst others lay the stem down in a similar way to that used for propagating Phaius. If the old canes were left on the plant untouched, they would just wither and die over the next few months, so you may as well put them to work!

A similar method works well for "softcane" dendrobiums, which are hybrids derived from the species *Dendrobium nobile* and its relatives. These produce nodes along the pseudobulbs that, if the growing conditions are correct, will produce blooms in late spring. Select canes that are at least three years old, leaving three connected growths intact on the main plant. You would leave the current growth (with foliage, to bloom next year, this should also have a new growth just starting at the base), the flowering growth (remember this process is best done in the blooming season), and the previous years growth (which would be leafless, with evidence of flowering last year). Cut off the old pseudobulbs (three years and older) at the base of the plant. Slice into sections halfway between the nodes, leaving two or three nodes between each cut. Discard sections where all the nodes have expired (if they have bloomed, they will not re-shoot). Half bury the remaining "stem cuttings" in fine bark, and keep shaded and only just moist. They will start shooting in about three to six months.

Leaf Cuttings. Most members of the genus *Restrepia* may be proliferated by leaf-cuttings, in a similar way to striking African violet cuttings (although not as quickly!). In spring, select a leaf that has flowered previously (two-year old leaves seem to work best) and cut it at the rhizome. Place the "stem" (correctly a ramicaul) into a pot of Sphagnum moss, up to the base of the leaf. Be patient as this process often takes six months to work but it is still a quick way of duplicating choice (or rare) plants. Up to three new plants may develop from healthy leaves. This method has also worked for a few *Pleurothallis* species, generally the single flowered types that bloom repeatedly from the leaf axil.

Tuber Division. This method is a fairly recent innovation that has been successfully used to multiply "solitary" Australian deciduous terrestrial orchids from genera such as *Pterostylis* (Greenhoods) and *Diuris* (Donkey Orchids). The best time to do this is when the plants are in bloom. First, tip the plants out of the pot. At the base of the flowering stem two tubers will be evident. The current tuber, which will be a dirty colour, is presently feeding the plant. The new tuber (which will support next season's growth) will generally be white. Carefully remove the new tuber by twisting it, pot it up and store for next season's growth. Then replant the flowering piece, complete with the old tuber, and keep the pot slightly damp and shaded. Another tuber (sometimes two) may form over the next eight

weeks. These will be smaller than the first new tuber, and generally take two seasons to reach flowering size. This is an important way of multiplying rare species and selected clones.

From Flower Spikes. Flower spikes aren't really spikes at all, they're inflorescences. Some orchids will produce plantlets from spent inflorescences without any effort on your part. They include a number of the smaller *Phalaenopsis* species (such as *P. equestris*, *P. lueddemanniana*, *P. mariae* and *P. pallens*), *Sarcochilus ceciliae* and *S. roseus*, many "reed-stem" *Epidendrum* species and their hybrids plus some members of *Oncidium* Section *Cyrtochilium* (including *O. falcipetalum*, *O. serratum* and *O. superbiens*). The new plantlets develop along dormant eyes, either at nodes along the inflorescence or at the end (in the case of the *Sarcochilus*). It takes between one and two years for the plants to develop sufficiently for removal, so don't take them off prematurely. The application of plant growth hormones, such as keiki paste (a derivative of acetic acid), can accelerate this process. *Phaius tankervilleae* and the closely related *P. australis* may also be multiplied from the fleshy spent inflorescences after blooming has ceased. Simply cut the spike off at the base. Along the peduncle (the section of stem before the flowers start), you will notice a few leafy bracts clasping the stem. Carefully remove these bracts, which protect the dormant eyes from which new plants will form. I find that it works best to lay these stems horizontally on seedling trays with either Sphagnum moss or a *Cymbidium*-type compost that has a high moisture retentive content (achieved by the addition of peat moss). Keep in a shaded and humid situation, and growth shoots should appear within three months. Pot up individually once the plantlets develop an active root system. Plants propagated by this method generally take three or four years to bloom.

A Happy 2009!

Good Health!

Good Wealth!

Good Growing!