



# *A. S. G. A. P. Fern Study Group*

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## **From the editor**

I am taking over as editor from Peter, who has not been able to produce the newsletter as frequently as he had hoped. As I am retired I should have rather more time to do it, although I sometimes wonder when I had time to work. I will still be relying on Peter's technical expertise and advice on the content of the newsletters but please submit your newsletter material to me.

## **Forthcoming Events in the Sydney Region**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2008** Meet about 10.30 a.m. at the fernery in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Bring picnic lunch if you wish and its best to use public transport. Martin Place and St James are the nearest Railway stations. I will be leading us around the fern collection. Contact me, Peter Hind, on (02) 96258705 if you need more information.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2008**, Meet at 10a.m. at the Ourimbah Rest area at the Ourimbah Interchange. From Sydney travel along the F3 & take the first left at the Ourimbah round-a-bout, the rest area is on the left. After morning tea we intend to travel by car to the Watagans, visiting the moss wall at boarding house dam etc or to nearby Strickland State Forest if roads are closed in the Watagans. Bring packed lunch, water etc and wear comfortable walking shoes. Dot will be our guide.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**, Meet from about 11 am at Dots place,  
be studying the Pteris species in Australia.

We will

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November**, Meet from about 11 am at the Bankstown Native Garden, Sylvan Grove, off Henry Lawson Drive at Picnic Point. Bring packed lunch & perhaps a folding chair to sit on at lunchtime.

All outings are subject to weather conditions being favourable.

## **Program for South-east Queensland Region**

*Dan Johnston*

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2008.**

Meeting at 9:30am at Lorna Murray's home at

Subject: Dennstaedtiaceae.

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2008.**

Excursion to Brisbane Forest Park - South Boundary Road, starting at northern end (about half way between Jolly's Lookout and Boombana NP). Meet at 9:30am, at Jolly's Lookout carpark initially.

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2008.**

Meeting at 9:30am at Julie Major's property at

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2008.**

Meeting at 9:30am at Rod Pattison's home at  
and Plant swap.

for Christmas Party

**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.**

Meeting at 9:30am at Peter Bostock's home at

topic to be decided.

## **Flood Damage at Burrendong Arboretum**

The following message has been received from Carmel Spark, the APSoc representative for Burrendong Botanic Garden and Arboretum.

You may not know this but the beautiful Fern Gully area at the Arboretum was recently damaged by a flash flood. Some areas were badly affected with large plant losses. The Trust has asked me to invite members of both the Fern and Orchid study groups to come to the Arboretum and help us reconstruct some of the garden bed areas with new ferns and orchids. We would provide accommodation and meals in return for your assistance and some of your plantings. Please let me know if you need any further information about this request.

Many thanks and we do hope to hear from you.

## **Sydney Region Meeting Reports**

### **June Meeting**

Six members of the Fern Study Group met at the Camps at Mt. Elliot on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2008. Ferns were potted up in readiness for the Grevillea Study plant sale at Margaret & Peter Oldes. Hopefully, we will be able to nurture these ferns over summer to saleable condition.

### **Up Wheeny Creek with Peter**

*Dot Camp*

On Saturday 19th July 2008, six members of the Sydney F.S.G. met at Wheeny Creek, west of Sydney. Some of the ferns sighted were - *Adiantum aethiopicum*, *A. hispidulum*, *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *B. nudum*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Cyathea australis*, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Doodia aspera*, *D. australis*, *Gleichenia*, *Grammitis stenophylla*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *Pellaea falcata*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pteris tremula*, *Sticherus flabellatus*, *Todea barbara*.

Some quotes from Peter as we battled our way through thick lantana- 'there is a way through here!' then, 'all we have to do is find our way back!' and 'there, it wasn't that difficult!!!!'

## **South East Queensland Meeting Reports**

### **Christmas Creek**

On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2007, the South East Queensland group had an excursion to Christmas Creek which drains the northern slopes of the border ranges on the western side of Lamington National Park. A short distance from the car park, it is necessary to rock hop across the creek. Then there is quite a good track through the rainforest following the creek upstream. We lunched at a pleasant spot on the creek well short of Westaway's grave and then returned by the same route. (The main track ends at Westaway's grave. Westaway famously survived a Stinson aircraft crash in this area in the 1930s, only to die after falling down a cliff while seeking help for other survivors.) As well as observing ferns, we

were enlightened about some of the local fungi by Noreen and Ray Baxter. The following ferns were noted:

*Adiantum formosum*, *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Arachniodes aristate*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium attenuatum*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea cooperii*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dennstaedtia davallioides*, *Dictymia brownie*, *Doodia aspera*, *Doodia caudata*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Lastreopsis munita*, *Lastreopsis microsora*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Pelleae nana*, *Platycterium bifurcatum*, *Platycterium superbum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pteris tremula*, *Pteris umbrosa*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*  
list from Merle Gynther

### Maleny

On Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, we met at Mary Cairncross Park near Maleny on the Blackall Range in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Mary Cairncross Park is a remnant of very rich rainforest in a high rainfall area on basalt soils near the southern edge of the plateau. Ferns seen:

*Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Crepidomanes vitiense*, *Cyathea cooperi*, *Davallia solida* var. *pyxidata*, *Diplazium assimile*, *Dictymia brownie*, *Doodia aspera*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Lastreopsis microsora*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Platycterium bifurcatum*, *Platycterium superbum*, *Pteris tremula*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*  
list from Wendy Johnston

### Tallanbana, Springbrook National Park

Claire Shackel

It was a moist day when the Queensland fern group visited Springbrook on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The area has had good summer rain and the ferns were at their best.

At the top of the plateau where morning tea was taken there was rainforest type vegetation and ten ferns were seen before leaving the picnic area. The track down to the top of the falls was through moist rainforest and large patches of *Blechnum wattsii* and *Sticherus lobatus* were observed.

On crossing over the top of the falls to the eastern side, the vegetation changed to open Eucalyptus forest with a heath type understory that included a very coarse grasstree. High under the canopy on the trunk of some, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Asplenium polyodon*, and *Pyrrosia* found suitable habitats. The fragile looking *Lindsaea microphylla* grew in the harsh environment on the edge of the track.

The track dropped down over the cliff edge and zigzagged down to a much wetter environment. Huge rocks have broken from the cliff edge and made tunnels through which the track passed. These were dripping with water and made a perfect place for mosses and filmy ferns eg. *Grammitis billardieri*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme* and *H. marginatum*. When the track left the rock tunnels the environment returned to rainforest and *Tmesipteris* was found growing on a tree fern trunk.

The track continued zigzagging to the bottom of the gorge and under the water fall *Todea barbara*, *Deparia petersenii* and *Diplazium australe* grew in the very wet area.. On the way up the western side of the gorge the environment returned to open forest. There were several caves formed by large rock overhangs and in the seepages within the walls *Lastreopsis acuminata* protruded.

As the track climbed out of the gorge it crossed smaller streams and *Lastreopsis smithiana* and *Diplazium dilatatum* inhabited these moister areas. All together 51 ferns were seen on the 4km walk.

The following ferns were observed:

*Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, *Adiantum silvaticum*, *Arthropteris beckleri*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Blechnum patersonii*, *Blechnum wattsii*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Cephalomanes caudatum*, *Cheilanthes distans*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea australis*, *Cyathea leichhardtiana*, *Davallia solida* var. *pyxidata*, *Deparia petersenii*, *Dictymia brownii*, *Diplazium australe*, *Diplazium dilatatum*, *Doodia australis/media*, *Doodia caudata*, *Doodia caudata* (minute form), *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Gleichenia rupestris*, *Grammitis billardieri*, *Hymenophyllum australe*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, *Hymenophyllum marginatum*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Lastreopsis acuminata*, *Lastreopsis marginans*,

*Lastreopsis munita*, *Lastreopsis smithiana*, *Lindsaea microphyllia*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, *Pellaea* sp., *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pteris umbrosa*, *Pteris vittata*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Sticherus flabellatus* var. *flabellatus*, *Sticherus lobatus*, *Tmesipteris*, *Todea barbara*, *Vittaria*.

## Outing to Gerry Kortekaas's Garden at Buderim

Claire Shackel

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May the Queensland Fern Study group visited Gerry's garden

It has only been established for 4 to 5 years and is very impressive

The block is gentle to steeply sloping and is an acre in area, but Gerry has encroached on Council land and the neighbour to create a really wonderful private Botanic gardens. There is a large number of cordylines, crotons (some he has bred himself) and many other variegated plants that give permanent colour to the garden. Rod Pattison was in his element. There was a huge array of plants from around the world and many were flowering when we visited.

First impression was that there were not many ferns in the garden, but when Gerry started showing us around, they were tucked in everywhere. The native ones are listed below. The exotic ones that could be named are marked with an \*.

At the bottom of the garden was a spring fed dam that allows the gardens to be watered. The swimming pool has been converted to a biofilter for recycled water to make maximum use of the amount available.

*Acrostichum speciosum*, *Adiantum atroviride*, *A. formosum*, *A. hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, *A. hispidulum* var. *hypoglaucum*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. goudii*, *A. pellucidum*, *Blechnum camfieldii*, *B. brasiliense*\*, *B. moorei*\*, *Christella dentata*, *C. parasitica*, *Colysis sayeri*, *Cyrtomium falcatum*\*, *Cyathea cooperi*, *C. cooperi* (parsley form), *C. australis*, *Cyclosorus interruptus*, *Davallia denticulata*, *D. pectinata*, *D. solida*, *Dennstaedtia davallioides*, *Dicksonia antarctica*, *D. youngiae*, *Diplazium australe*, *D. dilatatum*, *D. esculentum*\*, *Doryopteris concolor*, *Drynaria rigidula* and various cultivars, *D. sparsisora*, *Dryopteris*, *Goniophlebium subauriculatum*, and cultivar *knightii*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Macrothelypteris torresiana*, *Marsilea drummondii*, *Microlepia speluncae*, *Microsorium grossum*, *M. punctatum*, *M. punctatum* cultivars, *M. grossum* × *M. punctatum* hybrid (= *M. maximum*), *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, *N. biserrata*, *Pellaea paradoxa* (crested form), *P. viridis*\*, *Polypodium aureum*\*, *Polystichum australiense*, *P. angularis*\*, *Pteris pacifica*, *P. tremula*, *P. vittata*, *P. semipinnata*\*, *P. quadriaurita*\*, *Rumohra adiantiformis*, *Selaginella* species\*, *Stenochlaena palustris*, *Thelypteris confluens*, *Todea barbara*, *Woodwardia*\*

## Excursion to

## Canungra

Claire Shackel

For the July outing of the Queensland fern study group, the participants met at

Canungra. The farm has been for over one hundred years and has been put on the market. A 25 acre area of lowland rainforest was preserved and this was dominated by hoop pine with black bean near the creek. It has been a relatively wet winter and the ferns have responded to the ample moisture.

At morning tea there was a short show and tell of fern sporelings. The first was *Anogramma leptophylla* – a fern in the family *Adiantaceae* that was the subject of the June meeting. There was nothing to show at that meeting but by July there were a few fern plants among the light green strong growing prothalli. *Anogramma* had a quite different appearance in its growth to other *Adiantaceae*. Another success from the spore bank was *Asplenium flabellifolium*. It has made nice little plants relatively rapidly – thanks, Barry. Plantlets of a bifurcating form of *Drynaria rigidula* from Rod Patterson were also shown. This was a fertile cultivar and though the sporelings were only 2cm high they were already showing bifurcation.

In the open paddocks the two *Cheilanthes* were seen. At the entry to the rainforest area there was a carpet of *Adiantum formosum*. Within the rainforest there were banks covered with *A. atroviride* interspersed with *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *L. munita* and *Doodia aspera*. Another feature was the large colonies of *Asplenium attenuatum*. *Pellaea nana* grew in and along the sides of a dry gully while

*P. paradoxa* made scattered appearances in the dryer areas. There were a few plants higher up the side of the gully that were intermediate between the two but did not have enough leaflets to be *P. falcata* – possibly a hybrid.

On the sandstone rocks just above Canungra Creek was a collection of *Asplenium australasicum* and a single plant of *Arthropteris tenella*. *Davallia pyxidata* were common on the ground where the supporting logs had rotted away. Near the lunch spot was a large log that had fallen across a steep gully and the bridge formed was completely filled with *D. pyxidata*.

The following ferns were seen:

*Adiantum atroviride*, *A. formosum*, *A. hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium attenuatum*, *A. australasicum*, *Cheilanthes distans*, *C. sieberi*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Doodia aspera*, *D. caudata*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *L. munita*, *Pellaea nana*, *P. paradoxa*, and possibly a cross between the two, *Platycterium bifurcatum*, *P. superbum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pteris tremula*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *P. rupestris*

Other ferns known to be on the farm but not seen on this excursion include *Ampelopteris prolifera*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Dennstaedtia davallioides*, *Doodia australis* and *Drynaria rigidula*.

## **ASGAP Fern Study Group Financial Statement - July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008**

*Dan Johnston, treasurer*

### **Electronic delivery of the newsletter...**

*Peter Bostock*

For some time now, it has been clear that the costs of producing the newsletter in current printed form together with postage would be considerably more than \$5 per annum if quarterly newsletters were to be re-introduced. So I am wondering how members of the Fern Study Group feel about electronic delivery, assuming that we could deliver an Acrobat (pdf) file of perhaps no more than 500 kilobytes, for example, by email, to willing members. Those members receiving emailed newsletters might then be subject to an annual subscription of perhaps \$5, while members receiving posted newsletters might be charged perhaps \$2.50 or perhaps more per annum extra to cover the additional costs of production and postage. One could argue that because the Study Group is flush with funds, we might simply offset the additional costs from our bank balance. However, I am hopeful that we will use much of this money in the spirit of Calder Chaffey's gift - that is, to benefit ferns in some way! So please indicate Yes or No, and provide comments if you wish, on the renewal form on the reverse of this slip. We will advise members next newsletter whether we will be implementing the proposal.

