



A.N.P.S.A. Fern Study Group

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Peter Bostock, contact as above.

From the Leader...

This month we include the 2016–2017 Financial Statement; a big thank you to Sue Dowrie for auditing the Study Group accounts this year. In addition, fees are due; see page 8 for further information.

Program for South-east Queensland Region

Peter Bostock

Sunday 6th August, 2017. Excursion to Bryces Road/Joyners Ridge Road, Mt Glorious. Meet along roadside between Mt Glorious Cafe and lower entrance to Maiala (D'Aguilar NP) at 9:30 am.

Sunday 3rd September, 2017. No meeting or excursion due to participation in the 2017 Spring Flower Show at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens auditorium on 16–17th September.

Sunday 1st October, 2017. Meeting at George Cornwell's residence, 33 Days Road, Wights Mountain in the Samford valley. Topic: Identification of ferns by keys (paper &/or computer based).

Sunday 5th November, 2017. Excursion to Mudgeeraba – visit Graham & Beth McDonald's property at 12 Pharlap Avenue, Mudgeeraba, and see progress made in restoration of vegetation in adjoining Gold Coast Hinterland Regional Park.

Sunday 3rd December, 2017. Christmas party – venue to be confirmed (Rod Pattison or Claire Shackel's residence).

Sunday 4th February, 2018. Meeting at Sue Dowrie's residence, 67 York St, Coorparoo. Set agenda for first half of 2018.

Program for the Sydney Region

Peter Hind

Sunday 20th August, 2017. Note this is the third Sunday. Alex has other commitments on Saturday. Meet from about 10.00 - 10.30 am at the home of Alex and Amanda Palmer, 126 Lyons Road, Drummoyne. No formal study. We get to look around their award winning garden of predominantly NSW south coast rainforest species, of course including many ferns. Phone Alex on 02 9181 5330 if lost or need directions or to let him know you are coming.

Saturday 16 Sept. Meet about 10.30 am at the home of Ian Cox, 5 Ivy Place, Kenthurst. Enjoy the opportunity to explore this excellent fern garden and extensive plantings of other attractive natives that do so well on this sandstone bush block. Enquiries to Ian Phone 96542533 Study to be advised.

Saturday, 21st October 2017. Meet at 11 am at Joseph Banks Reserve, Manooka Place, Kareela. Enjoy a walk through this native plants reserve. Our group in the past helped supply and plant some of the ferns here and did several weeding working bees.

Saturday 25th November, NOTE THIS IS THE 4th SATURDAY as Peter Olde will be away in New Caledonia the previous week. Meet at Margaret and Peter Olde's Suburban Residence at 138 Fowler Road, Illawong from 10.30 am. (1.3 km along Fowler Rd from the Illawong Village shops: 138 is on the right. Follow the right-of-way to the end and veer to the right). This is our end of year meeting. **No study**, please bring a plate to share It will be interesting to see how this smaller fern collection and other plantings have fared over the years since we have had a meeting here.

Ring Margaret on (mobile) 0432 187 025 if lost on the way there

December 2017 and January 2018 – No Meetings, - MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Saturday 17th February 2018, Meet from about 11 am at the home of Peter and Margret Hind, 41 Miller Street, Mt Druitt. We should do some more forward planning and perhaps we will discuss the work on Blechnaceae in which the splitting up of *Blechnum* as we have known it, resulting in Australia having no native species of *Blechnum*, but gaining several new genera such as *Oceanopteris*, *Parablechnum*, *Australianum* etc. *Blechnum* sens. strict. in Australia is represented by the naturalised *Blechnum appendiculatum* which according to the same authors includes *B. occidentale* (the species reputedly escaped here) in its synonymy.

Phone (02) 9625 8705

Saturday 17 March 2018, Meet from about 10.30 am at Pierces Pass (if late just follow the walking track downhill to the “Fairy Grotto” from the car park area). Travelling from Sydney along the Bells Line of Road (Richmond to Lithgow), turn left at the sign to Pierces Pass (West of Mt Tomah) and drive to the car park and picnic area furthest from the Highway (or leave your car at the top & walk down, it’s a fair way and relatively steep). The walk involves a short but steep descent to the creek, where *Leptopteris fraseri* is abundant and forming free standing trunks. Bring lunch and water if required (eat back at cars or snack enroute). There is a water tank near the cars, fed by weeping rocks from above. Toilets are also provided here by National Parks. The BPS and some of us visited here in April 2009. About 25 fern species were seen here on our last visit.

Phone Peter Hind on (02) 96258705 to register for this walk.

Expressions of interest, several days before any of the bushwalks should be given to whoever is leading the walk, by phone, email etc. If no positive indications are received, at least two days, where possible, before the event by the walk leader, the event will be cancelled.

Of course if the weather is bad or there is any possibility of danger, such as bushfire please do not turn up. If personal events change your plans, please let the leader know or send apologies via someone who is planning to go, so that we don’t wait for you.

All outings are subject to weather conditions being favourable.

Excursion and General Reports

Fern Meeting at Arafura Street, April 2017

Claire Shackel

Eight members met at my home for the April meeting. After Peter did some housekeeping, there were a number of specimens on the table to discuss. The small plant of *Asplenium simplicifrons* used for decoration was seven years old. Specimens of the two ferns *Tectaria devexa* and *Taenitis pinnata*, discussed in previous newsletter (#138, Feb. 2017), were on display. The strap like fern growing out of a very old pot of *Thelypteris confluens* was confirmed to be *Ophioglossum pendulum*. Small plants of *Lastreopsis tenera* were confirmed as they did not have a groove in the upper surface of the rachis. Tiny plants of *Asplenium simplicifrons* and *Dictymia brownii*, that had been grown from spore of crested/bifurcating plants, were showing a similar characteristic to their parents.

Although it was a very dry hot end to summer, earlier must have been suitable for spore germination as many different ferns came up in other fern pots as well as pots not in the greenhouse and even in the garden and lawn. One of the features in the garden was a big plant of *Psilotum nudum* with a flush of new growth. It was given to me by Noreen Baxter as a well established plant and it has grown since then. A number of *Drynaria rigidula* cultivars are growing in our yard. My bank of *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *whitei* was only just starting to regrow after the rain. It is native to the area and is self sown.



Ophioglossum pendulum frond in pot of *Thelypteris confluens*.

In the back yard we have two large self-



Tectaria devexa (background), *Asplenium simplicifrons* cultivar in bottle and slender *Microsorium scolopendria* rhizome in foreground.

watering pots containing *Angiopteris evecta*. Other feature plants include large specimens of *Asplenium australasicum* and *A. nidus* in the ground. The bush house is crammed with ferns with a nice specimen of *Phlegmariurus squarrosus* (rock tassel, formerly known as *Huperzia squarrosa*) and a *Microsorium scolopendria* trying to escape its pot.

The propagation house is full of mini-hothouse bottles and ferns in the first stage of potting up. There is also room for a few other plants as well like pitcher plants and ant plants. There are tiny *Cyathea leichhardtiana* still in their bottle ‘greenhouse’ and a well grown plant with 70 cm fronds, all from the same bottle. As you can see, growth can be very slow as I am not using artificial light or bottom heat.

Microsorium scolopendria, in Australia known only from the extreme tip of Cape York Peninsula, was grown from a small piece of rhizome given to me by Peter with the comment “See if you can grow this”. After 18 months it had shown enough growth to pot up. It was growing quite well when we went away for the weekend and on our returned found something had eaten all the leaves. Another two years and it was looking for a tree to climb so I placed it next to a dead tree fern trunk in the bush house. The rhizome is branching and now looking for more things to climb.

Fern outing to Brisbane Koala Bushland

Claire Shackel

Brisbane Koala Bushland Reserve off Alperton Road, Burbank in eastern Brisbane was the venue for the Study Group Brisbane members’ March meeting. The weather had been very hot and dry and the area was open forest country. Rod Pattison had offered to take us to some fern areas but due to ill health was unable to attend. We walked the Stockyard Creek Track, which was well maintained and included boardwalks to take walkers over the creek. Upon leaving the shelter shed, the open forest contained no mature trees, so I suspect the area had been planted with Koala food trees. There were none of the dry country ferns and very little variety in the understory plants.

After a hot walk along the ridge, the track descended gradually to Stockyard Creek where moisture allowed ferns to grow. *Adiantum atroviride*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Doodia caudata* and *Blechnum indicum* were seen and a lone *Platycterium bifurcatum* was perched on the side of a large rock. The creek was thoroughly investigated and *Calochlaena dubia*, *Christella dentata*, *Davallia pyxidata* and *Drynaria rigidula* were located. Further up the slope on the way back, a large moss-covered fallen eucalypt trunk hosted *Pyrrosia confluens* var. *confluens* and a small plant of *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, while *Pteridium esculentum* was scattered around the area.



Pyrrosia confluens var. *confluens* on mossy log.

Lunch was eaten in a large shelter shed at the entry, but after a pleasant lunch no one had the energy to investigate any other areas!

Brisbane Daytime Group excursion to Mt Mee, Feb. 2017

Claire Shackel

The Brisbane Daytime Group went to the Gantry Picnic area in February for their meeting and afterwards walked the Mill Rainforest Track. On the drive up Mt Mee, *Calochlaena dubia* was very common on the side of the road but was suffering from the lack of rain. The fern list was not as extensive as the Fern Study Group’s list from November 2015 (see newsletter #135, Feb. 2016). The weather was very dry and *Lastreopsis marginans*, which is a feature of this area, was in a very sorry state. Nearer the creek *Lastreopsis microsora* was doing a little better. The giant *Asplenium*

australasicum, *Platycerium bifurcatum* and *P. superbum* were magnificent but *A. polyodon* growing out of the bottom of a large bird's nest fern was nearly unrecognisable.

SEQ Fern Study Group meeting, October 2016

Claire Shackel

For the October meeting last year we returned to Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens to inspect the Fern House, the Tropical Dome and new plantings undertaken to beautify the former Legacy Way Tunnel construction site and newly formed ornamental lake (Ross McKinnon Lake) at the eastern edge of the Gardens.



A bipinnatifid form of *Blechnum cartilagineum*, planted in a shady area near the Lake.

The most impressive specimens in the fern house were two very large *Angiopteris evecta* with 4 m. fronds. One section of the fern house is devoted to native ferns and there was a selection of *Platycerium*, *Arachniodes aristata* and many others. The tree ferns had necessitated the removal of the shade cloth over a small area to let them develop their crowns without interference. Hanging baskets of tassel were high up in the roof, well out of harm's way. The other section contained exotic and fern cultivars.

had made their home high up in the metal frames that hold the dome together—in the past these plants had been more extensive and included some *Drynaria rigidula* but most were removed in a 'spring clean' of the dome a few years ago.

The Tropical Dome had very little in the way of ferns growing in the garden beds but a few exotic *Polypodium aureum* plants (now called *Phlebodium aureum*)

At the site of the new plantings, much of the area was very exposed and not entirely suitable for ferns. Along the path where there was some existing canopy providing shade, there was a number of ferns used in mass plantings as understory e.g. *Blechnum nudum* and *Doodia aspera*. All in all, it was a very pleasant way to spend a morning or afternoon with good paths and relatively level walking.

Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, June 2017

Peter Bostock



Ophioglossum pendulum in stag horn fern (*Platycerium superbum*).
Photo G. McDonald

The Fern Study excursion to the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens was a memorable experience for the members who attended, due in large part to the very warm welcome given to us by the Friends of the Gardens. We were afforded every possible assistance, including vehicular assistance for me in getting up the steep(ish) hill at the start of our walk around the Gardens.

We began by examining the ferns cultivated by Gene Rosser, who lives on the edge of the Gardens and who donated the land on which the gardens are situated. Gene has a varied collection of native and some exotic ferns, growing in and around her house. We were impressed by the rock tassel fern, *Phlegmariurus squarrosus*, and by the lush ribbon fern (*Ophioglossum pendulum*) growing out of the base of a stag horn (*Platycerium superbum*). She also has some cultivars of the basket fern, *Drynaria rigidula*, and one plant of the far north Qld *Drynaria quercifolia*.

Progressing downhill towards



Adiantum caudatum in Gene Rosser's collection.
Photo G. McDonald.

the lake, we saw tiny plants of mulga fern, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, felt fern, *Pyrrhosia rupestris*, and the brake fern, *Pteris vittata*, all naturally occurring on the lower slope of the hill. Plantings beside the lake included the tree fern, *Cyathea cooperi*, and the ferns *Blechnum brasiliense* (trunked fern from South America) and *B. cartilagineum* (a local native). A cultivar of *Doodia aspera*, with lobed (pinnatifid) rather than entire pinnae was also seen.

After a very enjoyable lunch provided by the Friends, we walked around the lower wetland area (Mangrove to Mountains track etc), seeing large expanses of harsh ground fern, *Hypolepis muelleri*, and quite a few *Christella dentata* plants. We were then shown the Herbarium, which is the subject of much recent work by volunteers drawn from the Friends of the Gardens membership.

Ferns seen at Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, including Gene Rosser's garden

<i>Adiantum atroviride</i>
<i>Adiantum caudatum</i> (recently recognised as native to north Queensland)
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> var. <i>hispidulum</i>
<i>Angiopteris evecta</i> – giant king fern
<i>Blechnum brasiliense</i> (native of South America)
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i>
<i>Christella dentata</i>
<i>Cyathea cooperi</i>
<i>Doodia aspera</i>
<i>Drynaria quercifolia</i>
<i>Drynaria rigidula</i> (including cultivars)
<i>Hypolepis muelleri</i>
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i> *

<i>Microsorium</i> (species not determined, but commonly sold in Qld as kangaroo fern, <i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>). See photos below.
<i>Ophioglossum pendulum</i>
<i>Pellaea nana</i>
<i>Pellaea paradoxa</i>
<i>Phlegmariurus squarrosus</i>
<i>Pteris vittata</i>
<i>Pyrrhosia rupestris</i>
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i> (native of southern Australia)

* naturalised in Queensland



Microsorium sp.–fronds showing dark stipes and rachises (left) and rhizome with fine scales on a green background (above).

SEQ Excursion to Binna Burra (Tullawallal circuit), May 2017 Peter Bostock & Noreen Baxter

For our excursion to Tullawallal at Binna Burra, we were joined by some of the Native Plants Qld Lone Members from the Gold Coast area, viz. Graham and Beth McDonald, Bonni Yee, Kris Tayler and Diane Wagner. As usual, the last few hundred metres of the Binna Burra road leading the National Park entrance was crammed with cars by the time we arrived, so we had to add a little distance to the official 2.5 km (each way) of the Tullawallal track. Tullawallal is a low peak of about 900 m altitude, and the track ascends in a gentle spiral to the rock-covered summit. The return journey was via the western part of the circuit, which due to its aspect, offers fewer ferns than the eastern (outbound) track.



Lastreopsis decomposita, showing characteristic small brown scales along the rachises. Photo G. McDonald

Generally the ferns of this circuit can be classed as mostly tolerant of drier rainforest conditions, as there are no creeks along the track and the aspect and general conditions are drier than much of the Lamington Plateau. The fern list is nevertheless quite representative of similar rainforest in S.E. Qld.

<i>Adiantum diaphanum</i>
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> var. <i>hispidulum</i>
<i>Adiantum formosum</i>
<i>Arthropteris beckleri</i>
<i>Arthropteris tenella</i>
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i>

<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> †
<i>Cyathea leichhardtiana</i>
<i>Davallia pyxidata</i>
<i>Dictymia brownii</i>
<i>Diplazium assimile</i>
<i>Doodia aspera</i>
<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i>
<i>Lastreopsis marginans</i>
<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i>
<i>Lastreopsis munita</i>

<i>Microsorium scandens</i>
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>
<i>Pellaea nana</i>
<i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i>
<i>Platynerium superbum</i>
<i>Pyrrosia rupestris</i>

† Possible sighting in a distant view.

Excursion to Tenison Woods area, Brisbane Forest Park

Peter Bostock & Wendy Johnston

The excursion to Tenison Woods area of Brisbane Forest Park in early August this year was planned as a walk along Joyners Ridge Road near Mt Glorious village, but when we arrived, we found that the road was closed due to planned hazard reduction burns. So instead,



Doodia australis photographed at Tenison Woods.



Microsorium scandens with typical entire and pinnatifid fronds.

we ventured on a few kilometres by car to the intersection of Northbrook Parkway and

Lepidozamia Break Road at Mt Tenison Woods. We investigated the latter forestry road for a few hundred metres, and also ventured onto the easterly trending track toward Mt D’Aguilar. The latter proved to be impassable after a relatively short distance due to a recently fallen tree but did yield a few interesting ferns.

Conditions generally were not as lush as those experienced in 2009, when we introduced some members of the British Pteridological Society to the area. However, the list was still quite respectable, even though we walked much further in 2009. *Doodia australis* (see photo) was a new addition to the area list this time.

Fern List: *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hypoglaucum*, *Arthropteris beckleri*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Blechnum patersonii*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea australis*, *Cyathea cooperi*, *Cyathea leichhardtiana*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Doodia aspera*, *Doodia australis*, *Doodia caudata*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Lastreopsis microsora*, *Lastreopsis munita*, *Lastreopsis smithiana*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Platycterium superbum*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*.

**ANPSA Fern Study Group
Financial Statement
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017**

Initial balance	10,553.27
Plus Membership fees	430.00
Term deposit interest	221.30
Donations	30.00
Flower Show attendance	50.00
Subtotal	11,284.57
Less Newsletter costs	268.91
Final Balance	11,015.66

\$10,000 is held as a term deposit; and \$1,015.66 is in the Society Cheque Account. Both bank accounts are with the Commonwealth Bank

Fees paid in advance represent a financial liability.

Subscription Year	Number Received	Liability
2017-2018	38	\$190
2018-2019	24	\$120
2018-2020	15	\$75
2020-2021	3	\$15
2021-2022	1	\$5
2022-2023	1	\$5
Total		\$410

Signed: Dan Johnston, Treasurer

In my opinion, the above is a true and fair representation of the state of affairs of the study group, according to the records and explanations supplied to me.

Signed: Susan Dowrie, Honorary auditor

ANPSA Fern Study Group Fees for 2017–2018

Dan Johnston, Treasurer

The annual subscription to the Fern Study Group is \$5 per household receiving a single copy of the Fern Group Newsletter and is due on 1st July. Please note also that membership of an ANPSA affiliated body, such as Native Plants Queensland, is a necessary prerequisite for study group membership.

If you get your newsletter by mail, the envelope address and an enclosed note will show your current paid-to date:

June 2015 Payment of \$10 is overdue and a total of \$15 is due on 1st July. Membership will be cancelled if payment is not received before the next newsletter goes out.

June 2016 Payment of \$5 is overdue and a total of \$10 is due on 1st July.

June 2017 Payment of \$5 for the 2017–2018 year is due on 1st July.

June 2018 or later. You have already paid for the coming year.

We accept payments for up to 4 years in advance. i.e. \$20 if you are currently up to date to June 2017.

If you receive your newsletter by email, you will be advised in the body of the email of your paid-to date.

Methods of payment:

- In person at a Queensland group meeting.
- By cheque or money order posted to me:
Dan Johnston,
9 Ryhope St,
Buderim, Qld. 4556.

For new members, please provide contact details e.g. name, address, and optionally an email address and phone number(s) (see form below). Please indicate if you prefer to receive newsletters by email or post. Make cheques payable to 'Fern Study Group'.

- By electronic bank transfer or direct deposit. You can transfer or deposit into our account.

Account name: **Fern Study Group**
Account number (Commonwealth Bank):
BSB: 064178
Account: 10230709

Please give your name as the "To account description" (other banks may have different terminology). If you use the electronic bank transfer or direct deposit method, I suggest that you also send me an email at: **dan.b.johnston@bigpond.com** so that if I have any queries about the payment, I can contact you by return email. Please also include any relevant information—such as a change of address—that would normally appear on the subscription form.

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