



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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Peter Bostock, contact as above.

Program for South-east Queensland Region

Peter Bostock

Sunday 3rd March 2019. Excursion to Mount Mee. Meet at the Gantry picnic area at 9:30 am. Possible walks include Bulls Falls/Falls Lookout walk, the Mill Rainforest walk and the Somerset Trail. Approach from the south via Samford, Dayboro, Mount Mee Road and Sellin Road.

Sunday 7th April 2019. Meeting at Kingsford Terrace Corinda (my retirement village, address above) in the community hall, beginning 9:30 am. Topics will include multimedia presentation: digital images, some videos illustrating how fern spores are explosively shed etc. If you would like to contribute images, please bring a USB memory stick along.

Parking will be available in the public carpark at 'Duporth' (this is the Community Centre, which also includes a bunch of apartments) – it is next door to my residential building (the Litchfield building), and is accessed from Cliveden Avenue via second driveway to west of railway bridge after leaving Oxley Road. Parking is available along the driveway leading down to the building, as well as on the return loop.

Sunday 5th May 2019. Excursion to Natural Bridge, Springbrook National Park, western section. Meet in the carpark at 9:30 am. Easiest route for Brisbane residents – exit the Pacific Motorway at Nerang (exit 69) and follow the Nerang–Murwillumbah Road for 38 km. Turn left into the park entrance at Bakers Road and continue on to the parking facilities. Note – this walk is not horizontal – the track includes a long section of steps, indicating a drop from the carpark down to the creek, so be warned.

Sunday 2nd June 2019. Meeting at Claire Shackel's residence, 17 Arafura St, Upper Mt Gravatt. View Claire's ferns and fern propagation. Other discussions to be determined. We will also need to plan future meetings and excursions for the second half of 2019.

Program for the Sydney Region

Peter Hind

Saturday 23rd March 2019. **Note this is the fourth Saturday!** Meet from 12 noon at the home of Kylie & Dwayne Stocks at Verdigris Nursery, at Western Distributor Road, Currowan Creek (25km inland from Batemans Bay).

Travelling from Sydney, go into **Goulburn** & take the turn-off to **Braidwood**. Continue through Braidwood & travel for about 23 km onto the **Kings Highway**, head down Clyde Mountain until just after you cross **Cabbage Tree Creek**. You will enter a 70km speed zone & watch out for the 23km marker to Batemans Bay. **Western Distributor Road** is just over the rise on the left. Turn down Western Distributor Road & travel for about 2.6 km. At the corner of Western Distributor & Pig Road you will see Kylie & Dwayne's house with a green roof on the right. Phone Kylie & Dwayne on 02 4478 1311 closer to the event.

Saturday 27th April 2019. Note this is the fourth Saturday, to avoid Easter. Meet from about 10.30 am for 11 am start at the Steve Lamont's residence at 158 Deepwater Road, Castle Cove. Take Castle Cove Drive (to the east) off Eastern Valley Way – it's 3 mins off Eastern Valley Way. Study to be advised or perhaps decide on the day. If lost or need further directions or information, phone Steve on (mobile) 0409 955 224.

Saturday 18th May 2019. Meet from about 11 am at Minnamurra Falls, 345 Minnamurra Falls Road, Jamberoo. A rich ferny area in a National Park with an elevated boardwalk through lowland subtropical rainforest full of *Cyathea leichhardtiana* and there is a longer Falls walk. This is the southern limit of *Crepidomanes vitiense*, an unusual small filmy fern. There will be a N.P. entry fee per car. If you need further info and to register interest phone me (peter Hind) at home on 02 9625 8705. Our last visit here was in May 2012.

Saturday 15th June 2019. 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. Topic if any to be decided. Enquiries to Ian Phone 02 9654 2533.

Saturday 20th July 2019. Meet from about 10.30 am at the home of Gayle and George Hardy, our newest members, at 19 Aranda Drive, Davidson (an apparently invisible house?). As usual bring a plate for morning or afternoon tea. Study of *Blechnum* re current (apparently accepted) classification including *Doodia*. If lost phone 02 9453 9940.

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 by the walk leader at least two days, where possible, before the event, 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

Mount Wilson – Happy Valley Track – Saturday 18th August 2018 Jeff Lynne

Just how desperate do you have to be to see a 'new' fern? Fairly desperate apparently. Sydney, Saturday morning, about 10° C. Chilly. An hour and a half later at Mount Wilson about 3° with a wind chill factor which made it *really* cold. However, there we were, Peter, George, Ian and I at the Cathedral of Ferns, Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains, ready to walk the nearby Happy Valley track. Happily, once we entered the forest the wind died down and as we began walking it all became quite pleasant. Fern spotting started straight away: *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Cyathea australis*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Polystichum proliferum*.



Leptopteris fraser on the walls of the gully (article photos: Jeff Lynne)

First epiphyte we saw was *Pyrrosia rupestris* quickly followed by *Microsorium scandens*. Then some more terrestrials; *Blechnum nudum*, *Lastreopsis microsora*, *Lastreopsis acuminata*, *Diplazium australe*, *Dicksonia antarctica*, *Dennstaedtia davallioides*, *Microsorium pustulatum*, *Pellaea nana* and *Blechnum neohollandicum* (yuk! *Doodia aspera* to us old farts).

So far, the track had been reasonable but at this point it became fairly steep, the steps a bit suspect and leaf litter a bit thicker. But it was dreadfully dry. *Asplenium flaccidum*,

Asplenium flabellifolium and *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme* were just shrivelled up memories of their former selves.

Descending into the gorge the vegetation changed, the ground a bit moister and different ferns presented themselves. *Blechnum ambiguum*, *Blechnum patersonii*, *Todea barbara*, *Leptopteris fraseri*, *Hymenophyllum rarum* were all found in various caves and on rock faces.

Finally after a lot of groaning and complaining we were down at the river level. Peter managed to lose his dignity on a slippery log but no harm done to either the log or Pete. The gully was absolutely phenomenal! *Leptopteris fraseri* literally covered the whole of one side of the gully extending 50 meters long and another 20 meters high; delicate, beautiful, soft green, stunning. On the trunks of *D. antarctica* we found *Asplenium bulbiferum* subsp. *gracillimum* with *Crepidomanes venosum* weaving its way through. Along the creek I managed to find the world's smallest *Histiopteris incisa* as well as *Grammitis stenophylla* and *Sticherus urceolatus*.

We spent a short time exploring the creek gully and then made our way back up the track. Best way to do this was good ol' slow and steady with plenty of stops along the way. Lunch at the start of the track was interrupted by sleeting rain so into the warmth of our respective cars and homeward bound.

Thanks for suggesting this walk, Peter, although you could have done better with the weather.



Peter Hind, leader of the excursion.

Excursion to Mary Cairncross Park, August 2018

Claire Shackel

Mary Cairncross Park has undergone massive redevelopment since my last visit and now has a café and interactive centre at the entry. Planted in the garden at the entry were *Blechnum indicum*, *Cyathea cooperi* and *Doodia aspera*. A feature of the rainforest was the strangler figs that had killed their host and were now free standing. These old trees had a canopy filled with massive *Asplenium australasicum*, *Platycterium superbum* and *P. bifurcatum* with occasional specimens of *Asplenium polyodon*, *Davallia pyxidata* and possibly *Ophioglossum pendulum*.



Filmy fern, *Crepidomanes vitiense*, on tree beside track (photo: Peter Bostock)

The ground was very dry and dusty and the understory sparse with poor specimens of *Lastreopsis microsora* scattered throughout the area. The lack of leaf litter on the ground was due to the giant earthworms consuming it as soon as it falls [PDB: an abundance of scrub turkeys might also contribute to this phenomenon]. On a tree trunk beside the track, Peter showed us *Crepidomanes vitiense*, a tiny filmy fern that appears as dark green irregular patches on the trunk of trees with permanent smoothish bark. It was only visible with a hand lens. Lovely specimens of *Arthropteris tenella* and *Microsorium scandens* smothering small saplings were an interesting feature. Also seen but not numerous were *Pyrrosia confluens*, *P. rupestris* and *Pteris tremula*.

In the moister area of the Piccabeen Palm forest, a few plants of *Diplazium assimile*, *Lastreopsis munita* and *L. marginans* were seen. On the sunny margins of the rainforest around the picnic area *Hypolepis muelleri* was common. Not a huge fern list, but a pleasant day was had by all. The park was very popular at the weekend and parking quickly becomes difficult, as late arrivals found.

Excursion to Jowarra section of Mooloolah River National Park, August 2018

Claire Shackel

Nine members met at the Jowarra (Raintree) section of Mooloolah River National Park for morning tea. At the entry to the walking track there was a large patch of *Calochlaena dubia* and a large upright *Nephrolepis*. On starting the Mooloolah River Circuit walk, *Nephrolepis cordifolia* and *Blechnum cartilagineum* were seen. *Lastreopsis microsora* was a common fern through the walk and *Adiantum hispidulum* frequented the river bank. Initially *Arthropteris tenella* was the fern that climbed the trees but in a moister area *Microsorium scandens* dominated, then later on, back came *A. tenella*.

Christella dentata made a periodic appearance. The forest contained a number of large strangler figs and high up, *Platycerium bifurcatum* was spotted with possibly *Pyrrosia confluens* growing nearby. One fig hosted *Platycerium superbum* as well as *P. bifurcatum*. *Pyrrosia* were noticeably absent from lower down on any of the inspected tree trunks. *Adiantum formosum*, *A. diaphanum*, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Doodia caudata* and *Lastreopsis munita* were seen but were not common.

On the second and longer track, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Hypolepis muelleri* and *Doodia aspera* were added to the list. A late lunch for those who walked both tracks but an interesting and enjoyable day.



Giant clump of *Platycerium bifurcatum* in Jowarra (photo: Wendy Johnston)

Ferns seen at Jowarra (as recorded by Dan Johnston): *Adiantum diaphanum*, *Adiantum formosum*, *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Christella dentata*, *Doodia aspera*, *Doodia caudata*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Lastreopsis microsora*, *Lastreopsis munita*, *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, *Platycterium bifurcatum*, *Platycterium superbum*, *Pyrrhosia confluens*.

Sydney Area Fern Study Meeting October, 2018

Dot Camp

We enjoyed a lovely day exploring the beautiful ferny garden of N.S.W. A.N.P.S.A. President John Aitken & his wife Liz at Bonnet Bay, Sydney. We enjoyed a lovely morning tea of scones, cooked by Liz & served with her delicious home-grown Davidson's plum sauce. Yum! The southerly facing garden, looking out to the Woronora River, offers up a wonderful collection of ferns & rainforest plants growing on & around huge rock boulders. Some of the ferns: *Cyathea cooperi*, *Angiopteris evecta*, *Platycterium*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Microsorium punctatum*, *Todea barbara* and *Microsorium scandens*.

Fern Study Group newsletters on AboutFerns.org

Peter Bostock

I've just been notified by Dwayne and Kylie Stocks, study group members from southern NSW, that the nearly full set¹ of ANPSA Fern Study Newsletters have been loaded as Acrobat files on their website **About Ferns** (<https://www.aboutferns.org/>). In addition, with some persistence and hard work, they have managed to produce searchable text files for each issue of the FSG newsletter, which means that searches for plant names can be carried out across the full set of newsletters. There will be some rough edges to these searches, due to the vagaries of optical character recognition, which had to be applied to the newsletter document files, but it is a big improvement on manually searching each newsletter!

This is preliminary information so I won't go into details this time about how to search, but I offer the following hints – type a fern name into the Quick Search box, and then select the Tab titled “Articles” on the right hand side. A list of FSG newsletters should appear (if you have the right spelling AND the fern is present in our newsletters!). I did strike some glitches in this search process – it pays to hit the <Enter> key after typing a plant name, rather than click mouse cursor on the search symbol – but persistence pays off and eventually the searches worked.

Here's an image of a search for *Adiantum diaphanum*, resulting in 42 newsletters being located.



¹ Newsletter #35 is missing but should be available by the time this newsletter is distributed.

Please note – this is an information guide not a renewal notice!

The annual subscription to the Fern Study Group is \$5 for 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.

Newsletters are sent by email (colour images, Adobe Acrobat (pdf) file) or posted (B&W images).

We accept payments for up to 4 years in advance i.e. \$20. If you receive your newsletter by email, you will be advised in the body of the email of your paid-to date when renewal is due.

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.

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