

# A.N.P.S.A. Fern Study Group Newsletter Number 148

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Dan Johnston, contact as above.

#### A Very Attractive Invitation

Jeff Lynne

## Fern Study Group Port Macquarie Fern Gathering

When: 4 days - Early November 2021

Where: Based around Port Macquarie

An easy 4 hours north of Sydney
A slightly longer 5 and a half hours from Brisbane

What's going on?: Trips to local ferny spots

Wilson River area, Werrikimbee National Park Plateau Beech, Werrikimbee National Park Boorganna Nature Reserve, Comboyne North Brother Rainforest Walk Middle Brother National Park



### And what else?:

BBQ dinner at Jeff's Place

Meet and greet all those other FSG members who have just been a name until now.

Expressions of Interest invited

Phone Jeff on 0412-728-626 Or email ferndog0112@gmail.com

Itinerary available closer to event



**Saturday 15 May**. Meet from about 10.30am at the suburban home of Margaret and Peter Olde, 138 Fowler Road, Illawong. We plan to study the NSW *Blechnum* spp. previously included in *Doodia*. **Travel instructions to 138 Fowler Rd, Illawong.** If travelling South along Alfords Point Rd, take the Illawong turnoff to the left, turn left at the next roundabout, drive approximately 1.5 km past the Illawong Village shops, and at top of the hill turn right into driveway of 134-138.

To register your attendance or if lost please call Margaret on mobile 0432187025.

<u>Saturday 5 June</u>. NOTE THIS IS THE FIRST SATURDAY IN JUNE. Meet from about 10.30am for 11am start, at Horseshoe Falls Reserve Picnic Area (No off street parking available last time we were here in April 2000). Take the Great Western Highway to the Blue mountains, pass Hazelbrook Railway Station and shops and then turn right into Oaklands Road at the lights. Follow this road to the entrance (pedestrian) to Horseshoe Falls Reserve on the right hand side of the road.

Phone Peter on (02) 96258705 to register your intentions.

<u>Saturday 17 July.</u> Meet from about 10.30am for 11am start at the Lamont's residence 158 Deepwater Road, Castle Cove. Take Castle Cove Drive (to the East) off Eastern Valley Way – its 3 mins off Eastern Valley Way. Study to be advised or perhaps decide on the day.

To Register your attendance or lost and need further directions or info phone Steve on (mobile) 0409955224.

<u>Saturday 21 Aug.</u> Meet from about 10.30am for 11am start 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. Our last visit here was in May 2012

If you need further info and to register interest phone me (Peter Hind) at home on (02) 96258705.

<u>Saturday 18 Sept.</u> Meet at Margaret and Peter Olde's country residence at 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale at 10.30am. Travel Instructions to the Olde's at Oakdale - Access via M5. Take Picton turn-off, drive approximately 10 km to Picton. Turn left at Picton into Argyle St, then first right into Barkers Lodge Road. Drive on Barkers Lodge Road to Oakdale sign (17 km. Approx.). Russell Lane is on the right at the Oakdale sign. We are on the right just past a very large dam and market garden – 140 – "Silky Oaks".

**No study**, please bring a plate to share and as usual we will look around the fern collection and plantings.

To register your attendance or if lost please call Margaret on mobile 0432187025.

<u>Saturday 16 Oct.</u> Meet at 11am at the home of Dot Camp, 118 Manns Road, Narara. From Sydney, travel on the F3, take the Gosford exit, pass through Kariong and continue to the bottom of the hill to West Gosford. Turn **left** at the second set of traffic lights into **Manns Road**. Follow Manns Road and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of traffic lights (about 3k) turn **right** into **Maliwa** Road and **right** again beside No. 7 Maliwa Road into an unnamed private road. We plan to do a bushwalk nearby. Bring lunch, water, etc. and wear comfortable walking shoes. Dot will be our guide. **To register your attendance or if lost phone Dot on 43246077 or mobile 0415512511** 

<u>Saturday 20 Nov.</u> Meet about 10.30am 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. End of year party.

**No study**, please bring a plate or dish to share. Please let Ian know what you intend bringing to try & avoid too much of the same.

Enquiries to Ian Phone 96542533 also let Ian know if you intend being there or send apologies for those not able to make it.

<u>December 2021 and January 2022 – No Meetings, - MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR.</u>

<u>Saturday 19 February 2022</u>, Meet from about 10.30am for 11am. Start at the home of Peter and Margaret Hind, 41 Miller Street, Mt Druitt. Study to be decided plus some more forward planning? Phone (02) 96258705

Please bring a plate to share for morning or afternoon tea.

To help us comply with COVID19 restrictions phone the host if a house or leader if a walk before the event. Restrictions are subject to change by the NSW Govt.

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.

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

Helen Jeremy

Sunday 6 June 2021. Maiala, D'Aguilar National Park. Meet at 9.30am at Maiala day use area on Mount Glorious Road, just west of Mt Glorious township. We'll head anti-clockwise on the 2 km Rainforest Circuit hoping to rediscover some patches of *Crepidomanes vitiense* in the sub-tropical rainforest, before we take a side trip looking for drier forest ferns along the Cypress Grove Circuit. Maiala has a large grassy picnic area, perfect for a relaxing BYO lunch.

**Sunday 4 July 2021. The Knoll, Mt Tamborine.** Meet at 9.30am at The Knoll/Sandy Creek Circuit picnic area off Knoll Road, North Tamborine (half way along Knoll Road, keep left when the road forks). We'll explore the 3 km Sandy Creek Circuit and Cameron Falls, descending through the open eucalypt forest into the rainforest, before returning up hill to have our BYO lunch in the picnic area. It's been a long time since our group visited this area. We identified 38 fern species here in 2001 and 36 in 2004, including five species of *Lastreopsis* as well as the filmy ferns *Abrodictyum caudatum* and *Crepidomanes vitiense*. How many species will we find this time?

Saturday 7 August 2021 – Roma Street Parklands, Brisbane (note this is a Saturday meeting) Meet at 9.30am at the gazebo outside the Fern Gully entrance in the College Close Carpark (off Parkland Crescent, metered parking \$1.40 p.h.)

We'll explore the Fern Gully, the fern understories in the Subtropical Palm Forest and Rainforest gardens, as well as the collection of *Angiopteris evecta*. There are also other plantings of ferns to admire elsewhere in the gardens. There are several places where we can enjoy our BYO picnic lunches, perhaps in a shady spot on the lawns. For those wanting to explore further, there are 16 hectares of gardens featuring sub-tropical vegetation and species from around the world, including the stunning Spectacle Garden which is a changing display of seasonal colour.

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September 2021 – NPQ Spring Flower Show, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Brisbane. Come along and spread the word about ferns at The Fern Study Group's display. Please let Helen know your availability for helping with the display. A roster for the weekend will be compiled closer to the date.

Due to COVID19 requirements, please RSVP for all SEQ excursions to Helen Jeremy at <a href="heljeremy@gmail.com">heljeremy@gmail.com</a>

### Peter and Margaret Hind's Place, Mt Druitt, 20 February 2021

(Rather than add to confusion and to inter-state rivalry, the names listed below are taken from the 2020 column of the last newsletter.)

There are many highlights in Peter Hind's collection and in the surrounding garden. Some of my favourites include:

- 1. a collection of *Blechnaceae* hybrids and oddments including:
  - (a) the two *Blechnum moorei* (one is the real one from New Caledonia and the other is called *moorei* in trade the trade one is probably a cross between the real *B. moorei* and *B. gibbum* or *B. cartilagineum* it has the ciliate pinnule margins of the real *B moorei* but not the truncate to bifid apex of the pinnules, it does form a short thick trunk which branches);
  - (b) both hybrids called *Blechnum maximum* (*B. neohollandicum* x *B. nudum* and *B. cartilagineum* x *B. neohollandicum* the collection by Charles Fraser in 1825 on the Warragamba River, NSW compares favourably with the latter Kew no. K001092767);
  - (c) an enormous B brasiliense, and
  - (d) of course, B. hindii;
- 2. a small field of *Pellaea falcata* (several square metres) growing in the sun;
- 3. large thickets of *Lastreopsis microsora* and *L. decomposita*<sup>1</sup>;
- 4. *Microsorum scandens* and *Stenochlaena* palustris gone mad (the *Microsorum* is growing up a *Cyathea robusta* trunk);
- 5. a *Bolbitis quoyana* amongst rocks that relies on a perforated plastic sheet below ground to slow drainage;
- 6. a large Angiopteris evecta (sitting in a tub of water);
- 7. very attractive and bushy hanging pots, full of *Colysis sayeri*, *C. ampla*, *Belvisia mucronata*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *A. aethiopicum*, *A. milnei* and a number of different *Microsorum spp*.;
- 8. more Aglaomorpha coronans than I've seen anywhere else;
- 9. a fabulously happy *Davallia repens*;
- 10. *Platycerium hillii* on a *Cyathea robusta* trunk and a huge *Platycerium veitchii* (probably x *hillii*) encircling a Bangalow Palm trunk;
- 11. a very happy mango tree decorated with hanging baskets of *Drynaria rigidula* 'Diversipinnae'<sup>2</sup>; another *D. rigidula* cultivar (perhaps *Lanridgeae*) and *x Aglaonaria robertsii*; and
- 12. lots of electric blue (in the shaded sections) Selaginella wildenowii.

The main topic for discussion was 'what's this one Peter?'.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Peter Bostock: The assignment of *Lastreopsis decomposita* to *Parapolystichum* by some recent authors (including Qld Herbarium's *Census of the Queensland Flora 2020*) is incorrect – this species is rightly placed in *Lastreopsis*, not *Parapolystichum*, based on recent molecular DNA studies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Steve supplied this name as "D. rigidula var. diversipinnae", but that combination has never been published. It was published originally as Polypodium rigidulum var. diversipinnae, and much later (in 1990) as the cultivar name cited above.

#### Steve and Melinda Lamont's Place – Castle Cove - March 2021

This was a fizzer. The weather forecast was so terrible and it was postponed till July. The topic probably should have been drainage (We hope nobody was badly affected by the floods or rains).

### Cascade Falls - 17 April 2021

The group and a few special guests went to Cascade Falls near Robertson. This place is remarkable not so much for the fern species present (though there is a great selection) but more because of the condition of the ferns and their profusion. Everything is perfect – no brown fronds, no bite marks, no sad, droopy or unhappy bits. It looks like the light, humidity and rainfall conditions have not changed much for millions of years and everything has evolved perfectly for those conditions and, accordingly, all are completely happy and in perfect shape.

The Adiantum formosum are huge; they all have uniform light edges and slightly rosy borders and they all tilt on a flat plane at the same angle. In some places, this effect is so pronounced that you can bob up and down and the fronds seem to disappear and reappear as you move. Most rocks look like a gardener has arranged Arthropteris tenella artistically around the edges. The creek flowing over the rocks is beautiful. The falls themselves are beautiful and again Arthropteris, Sticherus lobatus and the other surrounding ferns look like a gardener has arranged them. The effect is enhanced further by the relative lack of introduced species – as though the same gardener has done the weeding.





The twisted vine seen along the track is Pandorea pandorana (wonga vine).

Kevin Mills was one of the special guests. His photographic understanding of the area and its ferns was enormously interesting and educational. He was very happy to share information and to answer lots of questions. He provided a list of fern species for the walk. A copy of that list is annexed.

Another special guest was Seanna McCune. the Botanical Information Service Botanist from The Herbarium at the Sydney Botanic Gardens. Seanna is on the far right in Kevin's photo at right. The others in the group, from the left, are Chris Cheetham, Ian Cox, Steve Lamont and Peter Hind.

If you haven't been to Cascade Falls, there is a real treat in store.



# The Fern Study Group Slide Show DVD is Now Available – Free Limited Edition

The Fern Study Group produced a slide show in 1982. Originally, the narration was taped, and 35mm transparencies were run on two alternating projectors. Geraldine (Gerry) Parker narrated in the style of a 1950s newsreel. Photographs and slides were collected from all over Australia following a request published in this newsletter. The tape referred to a number of original members and participants including Ray Best, John and Addie Lee and Peter Althofer (of Burrendong Arboretum). It's a very quaint and informative piece of FSG history.

Over the past year, Peter Hind has spent a lot of time, trouble and expertise digitising the slides and the original narration. He's also replaced some slides where quality had deteriorated (or wasn't that great in the beginning). The presentation runs for 42 minutes and has been burned onto a limited number of DVDs. We're very grateful to Peter for all this work. The DVD was screened at the Sydney group's February meeting.

If you'd like a copy of the DVD, send an email to <u>lamonts3@optusnet.com.au</u> and we'll post one.

# **South-East Queensland Meeting Reports Eumundi Conservation Park - 7 March, 2021**

Dan Johnston

The group met at the North Arm Gate to Eumundi Conservation Park on North Arm Yandina Creek Road, North Arm and did a short car shuffle along Allandale Road to put a couple of cars near the turnoff to Fig Tree Road at the NE corner of the southern section of the park. From the gate we walked down the rather rough vehicular track to the creek, observing a couple of specimens of *Cheilanthes tenuifolia* beside the track. This fern is rather unfamiliar to members and is near its southern limit here. As we descended, the forest became moister with areas of False Bracken, Calochlaena dubia and increasingly Blechnum neohollandicum (formerly Doodia aspera) and Blechnum doodianum (Doodia heterophylla). After ascending about 50m on the other side of the creek we left the old vehicular track and followed a fairly well used pad (clearly used by horses as well as people) to the right which followed the creek as it descended gently for about 1km to the park boundary. Towards the end of the walk, there was a patch – perhaps 5m diameter – of Lindsaea incisa, another fern which is rather

unfamiliar to the members present. We also saw both *Christella dentata* and *C. parasitica*. *C. parasitica* is also fairly uncommon but seems to quite often occur near *C. dentata* in the Sunshine Coast area.

Ferns seen: Adiantum hispidulum, Asplenium australasicum, Blechnum doodianum (Doodia heterophylla), Blechnum cartilagineum, Blechnum neohollandicum (Doodia aspera), Calochlaena dubia, Cheilanthes tenuifolia, Christella dentata, Christella parasitica, Davallia pyxidata, Hypolepis muelleri, Lindsaea incisa, Pteridium esculentum.



Cheilanthes tenuifolia



Lindsaea incisa

On an exploratory trip earlier, I also saw one small stag, *Platycerium superbum*, and a large clump of elks, *Platycerium bifurcatum*, high on a palm well off the track, but we didn't see these on 7 March.

### **Upper Mudgeeraba Conservation Area—2 May 2021** Graham McDonald

On a day with overcast skies and threatening showers, twelve native fern enthusiasts explored a small area of the Upper Mudgeeraba Conservation Area. Seven members of the South-east Queensland FSG were joined by 5 local Gold Coast members who were not daunted by the weather. Luckily, the rain held off for most of the walk. We had a fairly easy walk in after a very steep entry where hiking poles were put to good use. This conservation area covers 247 hectares and includes at least five vegetation communities. The soils are mainly residual soils on Devonian-Silurian Neranleigh-Fernvale metamorphics with greywacke, argillite and quartz supporting dry rainforest, blackbutt forest, dry sclerophyll forest and moist sclerophyll forest. A narrow zone of coarse alluvium fringes Wallaby Creek and its smaller tributaries, containing riparian rainforest. This small area boasts the highest plant diversity on the Gold Coast with nearly 400 native plant species, including 30 fern species.

We discovered at least three and possibly four fern species not on the original plant list. These included *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Pyrrosia confluens* and *Cheilanthes sieberi*.

Sadly, a small population of *Sticherus flabellatus* on a bank was almost completely destroyed by the record flood Mudgeeraba had in March earlier this year. Only 3 ferns were found. Another fern with limited population size here is *Parapolystichum microsorum* (formerly *Lastreopsis microsora*).

One of the highlights of the walk was a brief side track into the endangered blackbutt forest RE12.11.23 (Regional Ecosystem) with a beautiful ground cover of *Calochlaena dubia* and *Blechnum cartilagineum*. There was also a rock beside the track with 3 fern species co-inhabiting it – *Drynaria rigidula*, *Platycerium superbum* and *Davallia pyxidata*. After the excursion, we gathered at Hinterland Regional Park for lunch.

Species seen on 2 May 2021: Adiantum hispidulum var. hispidulum, Asplenium attenuatum, Asplenium australasicum, Blechnum cartilagineum, Blechnum medium (Doodia media), Blechnum neohollandicum (Doodia aspera), Blechnum rupestre (Doodia caudata), Calochlaena dubia, Cheilanthes sieberi, Christella dentata, Davallia pyxidata, Drynaria rigidula, Lastreopsis marginans, Nephrolepis cordifolia, Parapolystichum microsorum (Lastreopsis microsora), Pellaea nana, Pellaea paradoxa, Platycerium bifurcatum, Platycerium superbum, Pteridium esculentum, Pyrrosia confluens, Pyrrosia rupestris, Sphaeropteris cooperi (Cyathea cooperi), Sticherus flabellatus

Other species seen previously in the Upper Mudgeeraba Conservation Area: Adiantum diaphanum, Adiantum formosum, Adiantum hispidulum var. hypoglaucum, Alsophila australis (Cyathea australis), Lastreopsis decomposita, Parapolystichum acuminatum (Lastreopsis acuminata), Pteris tremula, Sphaeropteris australis (Cyathea leichhardtiana).

### **Betty Rymer**

### A passionate lover of native plants, and a consummate educator

Ian Cox

Betty was born on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1922 on the outskirts of London, where she grew up as an only child of Robert and Florence Pierpoint. She completed a double degree in teaching and biology after the second world war and taught biology at Goldsmiths University in London.

In 1959 Betty married Eric Rymer, and in 1960 they moved to Australia and bought land and built their house in Annangrove Road Kenthurst. In 1964 they welcomed a son, Colin, and in 1969 fostered a daughter, Vicki, as a sibling for him. In 1970 they moved to a house at Engadine in the Sutherland Shire so that Eric, an industrial chemist, would be closer to his work location at Botany. Eric came to Australia to work in a chemical plant, but spent most of his working life in Australia at



Johnson and Johnson. They rented out their house at Kenthurst. For several years Betty taught biology at high school and at the University of NSW.

On arrival in Australia Betty fell in love with our native flora, and henceforth her life was spent discovering and learning about it, and in teaching others about it.

Colin attended Engadine High School, and Betty soon organized a garden group for students. One of her projects was to germinate and grow eucalypts for Koalas to eat. When the eucalypts were large enough to be planted out, Taronga Zoo would come and collect the small trees in pots.

Vicki went to Heathcote High School, where her science teacher for two years was John Aitken. John met Betty several times at parent-teacher nights. He has been President of the Australian Plants Society NSW now for several years. A remarkable coincidence!

Around 1975 Betty and Eric joined the strong Sutherland Group of SGAP, and Betty joined in their many activities. In 1982 and 1983 Betty assisted Peter Olde with the displays at the SGAP Wildflower Exhibitions at Peakhurst High School. In 1983 Betty and Eric moved back to their home at Kenthurst. In 1984 Betty was appointed Exhibition Manager, and the venue for the annual show was changed to Castle Hill Showground. The 1984 Sydney Wildflower Exhibition under Betty's management was extremely successful. Over 13,000 people went through the gates, probably helped by the attendance of media personalities Alan Seale, and Graham and Sandra Ross. Profit from the show was \$25,664 – an amazing result!

Betty's wonderful shows at Castle Hill were on a grand scale. They were massive, and packed full of interest. The many attractions included stunning displays of wildflowers from Western Australia, lots of cut flowers and plants for sale, children's corner, audio-visuals, demonstrations, raffles, a gumnut competition – guessing the number of gumnuts in a jar, free busses from Parramatta station, a bush band, the direct broadcast of Graham and Sandra Ross' radio show, barbeques, and food and drink provided by the Red Cross and other organisations.

Betty managed successful shows at Castle Hill in 1984,1985, and 1986, as well as the Bicentennial Banksia Spectacular in 1988 at Bankstown jointly with Mark Ferrington, and exhibitions at "Spring in the Gardens" at the Royal Botanic Gardens. She also helped organize the successful Wildflower Spectaculars at Rouse Hill in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. As well as attracting thousands of people and making them aware of the beauty of Australian plants, the shows provided much-needed funds for the Society and increased membership. Betty was always lavish in her praise of the many hardworking helpers at her shows, and mentioned them by name in her written reviews.

When Betty and Eric joined the Parramatta and Hills Group in 1983 she was immediately elected to the committee. Thereafter she contributed to the Group in so many ways. She gave many talks and presentations, helped with local plant sales and displays, arranged speakers, organised mid-week bushwalks, and held botany and plant identification classes for members. After a very hot fire went through the bushland at the end of Porters Road Kenthurst in 1991, and again in 2002, the Group under Betty's skilful leadership laid out grids in five locations to monitor and record the progress of germination and regrowth.

In 1991 Betty was awarded life membership of the Society in recognition of her tremendous contributions to the Society and to native plants over many years at group and regional levels. She served on the board of directors for eight years, contributing to policy and state operations in that time. Later, she personally answered all queries about native plants that came in to the Society's office.

Eric, Betty's great love, companion, supporter and helper, always cheerful, with a keen sense of humour and a wide knowledge of current affairs, passed away in 1998.

In an article Betty wrote for the Garden Design Study Group newsletter about saving water, she explained how all the waste water from her house and septic system went into pipes to be dispersed into the garden beds, and listed native plants including ferns that would survive without much water.

One of Betty's messages with garden design was - don't interfere with nature. She said "you learn from nature - don't try to change what you've got - look at what nature is telling you to do". She applied these simple principles when volunteering at the Community Environment Centre Annangrove, where she helped plan and maintain the demonstration waterwise native garden. When Betty moved from Kenthurst in 2011 she donated some of her ferns to be planted in the demonstration garden, which still survive today. This section is affectionately known as "Betty's fern garden".

Betty was very active in the Fern Study Group, attending regular meetings and outings and adding to the knowledge of other members. She was a prominent member of the Grevillea Study Group, helping Peter Olde with displays at the large plant sales conducted by the Study Group at Mt Annan and at Peter's garden at Oakdale. She was also an active member of other organisations, and became President of the Castle Hill Garden Club.



Betty gave many presentations and talks to APS meetings, garden clubs, Probus clubs, similar community groups and at local council events, spreading her vast knowledge and love of Australian plants, and as far as I am aware never referred to notes. The information needed for her stimulating, passionate and free-flowing talks was always neatly assembled in her head!

Betty passed away after a short stay in a nursing home at the grand age of almost 99 on 3rd April 2021.

Betty will be remembered as a passionate scientist, researcher, gardener, teacher, writer, and supporter of native plants. She was ever so wise, ever so polite. She was an inspiration, and will be fondly remembered and greatly missed!



Betty with Lesley Waite at the Community Environment Centre, Annangrove







D. rigidula 'Kimiae' Hort.





D. rigidula 'Lanridgiae' Hort.







D. rigidula 'Melvillei' Hort.