



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

Newsletter Number 153

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Dan Johnston, contact as above.

Program for Sydney Region

Peter Hind

Saturday 18 March 2023. Meet from about 10.00am 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 Bell’s 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 (unreliable), fed by weeping rocks from above. Toilets are also provided here by National Parks. Our last FSG trip here was August 2013. About 25 fern species were seen here on our last visit. **Phone Peter Hind on 02 9625 8705 to register for the walk or email petehin@bigpond.com**

Saturday 15 April 2023. 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) 0409 955 224.**

Saturday 20 May 2023. Meet from about 10.30am for 11am start, at Horseshoe Falls Reserve Picnic Area Park on right hand side after crossing the creek that has the waterfalls. We were last here in June 2021. Take the Great Western Highway to the Blue mountains, past 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. Please **Phone Peter Hind on 02 9625 8705 to register for the walk or email petehin@bigpond.com**

Saturday 17 June 2023. Meet from 11am at the home of Natalie & John at 4 Laurel Street, Willoughby. Study to be decided. **Enquiries to Natalie & John on (mobile) 0438 102 666 .**

Saturday 15 July 2023. Meet from about 10.30am for 11am start of walk from Neate’s Glen to Evans Lookout passing the Grand Canyon. Meet at Neate’s Glen parking area or if full Evans Lookout parking area & walk back along the road to the track entrance. Evans Lookout Road starts on the right hand side of The Great Western Highway about 1.7 km before the traffic lights in Blackheath when approaching from Katoomba. We plan to descend via a well-made track about 200m to the canyon floor. (It’s actually only a small ferny creek.) About halfway, near Beauchamp Falls there is a view into the Grose Valley, a good spot for a rest & snack or lunch, before the ascent to Evans Lookout then walk back along the road to our cars along Evans Lookout road. We can either walk back to our cars or perhaps arrange to park one of them at the Evans Lookout parking area. Perhaps carry lunch or eat back at the cars. As with all bushwalks, wear sensible footwear and clothing. Check the weather forecast as it can be cold at this altitude. Please **Phone Peter Hind on 02 9625 8705 to register for the walk or email petehin@bigpond.com**

Saturday 19 Aug 2023. Meet from about 10.30–11am at The Cathedral of Ferns, Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains. The road on Mt Wilson is clearly signposted to the Cathedral of Ferns. Turn left at

the T junction after passing through the Mt Wilson village (No shops). We plan to do an easy walk or two near the picnic area. Council toilets are present at the edge of the playing field. We should meet near these at the start of the cleared grassy area. A short walk in the rainforest is available the other side of the main road. Another trail is near to Cathedral Creek, below the rainforest area.

Saturday 16 Sept 2023. 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, continue to the bottom of the hill to West Gosford. Turn **left** at the first set of traffic lights into **Manns Road**. Follow Manns Road & at the 4th set of traffic lights (about 3k) turn **right** into **Maliwa Road** & **right** again between No. 5 & 7 Maliwa Road into an unnamed private road. We plan to do a bushwalk in nearby Strickland National Park. The Plant lovers fair is also on at Kariong. Bring lunch, water, etc and wear comfortable walking shoes. Dot will be our guide. **To register your attendance or if lost phone Dot on 07 4324 6077 or mobile 0415 512 511.**

Saturday 21 October 2023. Meet at Margaret and Peter Olde's Country Residence at 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale at 11am. Ring Margaret on 46596598 if lost on the way there.

Travel Instructions to the Olde's at Oakdale -Access via M5. Take Picton turn-off and drive approx. 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”.

Saturday 18 Nov 2023. 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 02 9654 2533. Also let Ian know if you intend being there or send apologies for those not able to make it.

December 2023 and January 2024 – No Meetings, - MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

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 19 March – Manorina, D'Aguilar NP. (RESCHEDULED due to inclement weather.) Meet at Manorina car parking area at 9.30am. Coming from Brisbane on Mt Nebo Road, Manorina is 2 km past the Mt Nebo township, on the right. At Manorina, we'll explore part of the Morelia walking track (it's rated Grade 4 but it's a fairly easy walk, being a gentle climb on a good track) and the Atrax Circuit (750m Grade 3 circuit). There is a sea of ferns along the track, and we should be able to find about 25 species. A highlight is a patch of *Blechnum maximum*. We'll also be able to test our skills at identifying the different *Adiantum hispidulum* varieties.

There are no facilities at Manorina. The nearest toilet is at Jollys Lookout and we'll go there after the walk to have our BYO lunches.

Please RSVP to Brendan McIntyre for this excursion, via email brendanwmcintyre@gmail.com or phone 0468 356 099.

Wednesday 29 March - 7.00pm Zoom meeting “An Introduction to Rainforest Ferns”.

Especially for newer and prospective members who are just starting to learn about ferns, this meeting will talk about common rainforest ferns in SEQ and will be great preparation for the walk in Tamborine NP on the following Sunday. The Zoom meeting invitation will be emailed in the week prior.

Sunday 2 April – MacDonald Rainforest Circuit, Tamborine NP, “An Introduction to Rainforest Ferns”. Meet at 9.30am at the MacDonald Section carpark along Wongawallan Road. The circuit is an easy 1.4 km walk with a smaller number of fern species than we might find on some of our other walks, so it will be an excellent opportunity for newer and prospective member to become familiar with some of the common rainforest ferns in SEQ. More experienced members are most welcome to come along and share their expertise in fern identification with newer members. There’s also the challenge of possibly finding ferns which are not on the species list we have for the walk. There are picnic tables but **no toilets at MacDonald Section** so we will likely travel somewhere close by to have our BYO lunches.

Sunday 7 May - Study topic "Growing ferns at home" at the McDonald's residence, Mudgeeraba. Meet at 9.30am at 12 Pharlap Avenue, Mudgeeraba. Beth and Graham will take us on a tour of the many ferns in their garden and greenhouse and share their knowledge about how to successfully grow ferns at home, including propagation. Bring morning tea to share if you can. BYO lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

Except for March meeting please RSVP for all SEQ meetings to Helen Jeremy at heljeremy@gmail.com

Port Macquarie Report

Jeff Lynne, Steve Lamont, Helen Jeremy

Wow! After 18 months it finally happened! Woo hoo! So the plan was to take some keen fernies around the Port Macquarie area and let them see what ferns are growing in our local National Parks. As the big day arrived the weather forecast was studied every day. Rain was predicted every day – only the probability varied, from 50% to 80%. Could be a very wet 4 days...

The victims:

Dan & Wendy
Helen & Matthew
Dwayne & Kylie
Cameron
Steven
Sue
Francis
George
Bill
Jeff

Day 1 – Friday – Destination: Boorganna Nature Reserve, Comboyne

Nearly everyone met at Jeff’s place. We’d meet up with Bill and George at Boorganna. Introductions all round, lots of chatting, then off we went. An hour later we all parked in the car park, had a quick cuppa, and headed down the track. As we are at about 680 meters ASL it’s always a bit nippy here. The weather gods gave us an overcast day but no rain. The 5km (return) track takes us down to the base of the 40 metre Rawson Falls which, thanks to a fair amount of rain over the previous months, was in fine form. At the halfway point there is a bit of a lookout to the top of the falls, but it is rapidly being blocked out by trees which refuse to stop growing.



Great view of the top of Rawson Falls.



Innovative cut through an immense fallen
Brush Box.



That's *Diplazium australe* on the left with
D. assimile on the right.

On this walk we are lucky enough to have both *Diplazium australe* and *Diplazium assimile* growing side by side. This really helps to get a visual identification of these species, both of which we saw on subsequent days.

Ferns seen (33 species):

Species	Common Name
<i>Adiantum diaphanum</i>	Filmy Maidenhair
<i>Adiantum formosum</i>	Giant maidenhair
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> var. <i>hispidulum</i>	Rough Maidenhair
<i>Arachniodes aristata</i>	Prickly shield fern
<i>Arthropteris beckleri</i>	
<i>Arthropteris tenella</i>	Climbing Fishbone Fern
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Birds Nest
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Necklace fern
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	Mare's Tail fern
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern
<i>Blechnum neohollandicum</i> (<i>Doodia aspera</i>)	Prickly Rasp Fern
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i> subsp. <i>patersonii</i>	Strap Water Fern
<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>	False Bracken
<i>Christella dentata</i>	Binung
<i>Davallia pyxidata</i>	Hare's Foot Fern
<i>Dendroconche scandens</i> (<i>Microsorium scandens</i>)	Fragrant Fern
<i>Dictymia brownii</i>	Strap fern
<i>Diplazium assimile</i>	
<i>Diplazium australe</i>	Austral Lady Fern
<i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i>	Downy Ground Fern
<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i>	Trim Shield Fern
<i>Parapolystichum acuminatum</i> (<i>Lastreopsis acuminata</i>)	Shiny Shield Fern
<i>Parapolystichum microsorium</i> (<i>Lastreopsis microsorium</i>)	Creeping Shield Fern
<i>Parapolystichum munitum</i> (<i>Lastreopsis munita</i>)	Naked Shield Fern
<i>Pellaea falcata</i>	Sickle Fern
<i>Pellaea nana</i>	Dwarf Sickle Fern
<i>Pellaea paradoxa</i>	Heart Fern
<i>Platycterium bifurcatum</i>	Elkhorn
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	Tender Brake
<i>Pteris umbrosa</i>	Jungle Brake
<i>Pyrrhosia confluens</i> var. <i>confluens</i>	Robber Fern
<i>Sphaeropteris cooperi</i>	Coin Spot Tree Fern
<i>Sphaeropteris australis</i> (<i>Cyathea leichhardtiana</i>)	Prickly Tree Fern



Arachniodes aristata



Pyrrhosia confluens var. *confluens*

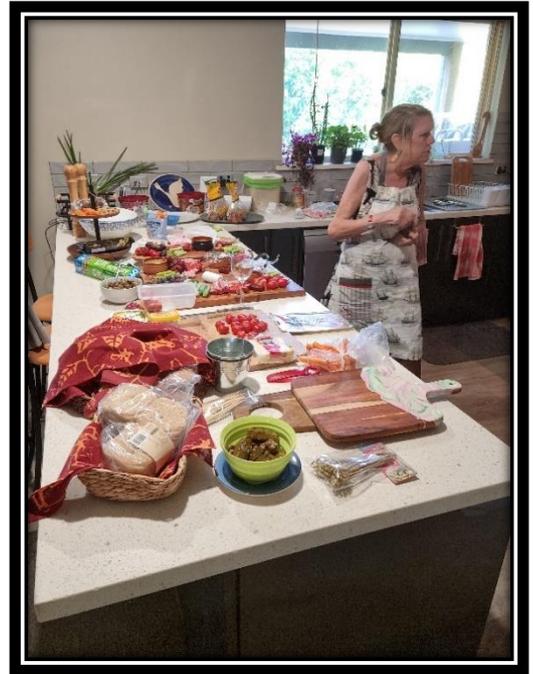
After we all arrived safely back at Port, we reconvened later at Jeff's place for a BBQ. Karen and friend Libby had set up and organised a feast for us all, a perfect way to end the first day. We all had a wander around Jeff's collection of ferns.



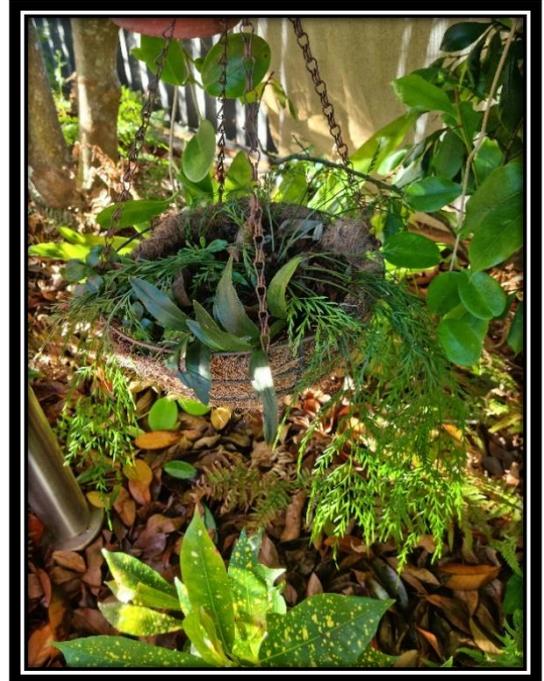
Stenochlaena palustris



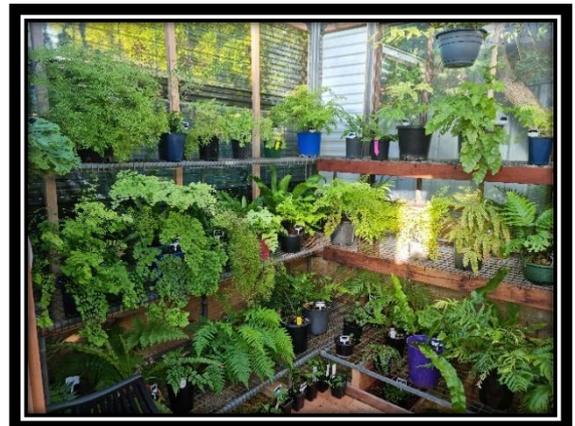
Asplenium daucifolium



Karen prepping (and panicking) for our Friday night BBQ.



Asplenium flaccidum with *Pyrrosia rupestris* and *Dendrobium falcorostrum*



Inside hothouse



Inside hothouse



Lygodium japonicum



Blechnum gibbum



Inside shadehouse

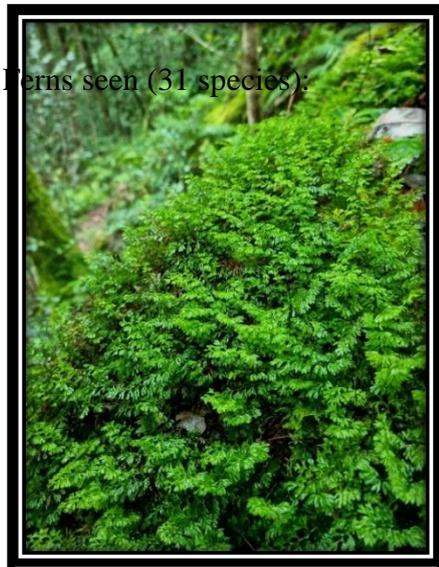
Day 2 – Saturday – Destination: Plateau Beech, Werrikimbe National Park

For this trip we did a bit of car pooling as 4WD was necessary. The first 50km is bitumen but after that the Hasting Forest Way is 50km of dirt road of varying quality. Several times there were sprinkles of rain as we ascended the mountains but happily it held off for most of the day. Once again, a cuppa to start us off and then into the bush we go. At 1160 metres this is cool rainforest. The King Fern Walk is a 2km circular track. Lots of rain over the last 12 months has resulted in many of the taller trees falling over and creating large gaps in the canopy. Lots of moss and lichens covered the rocks.



Picnic shed, Plateau Beech

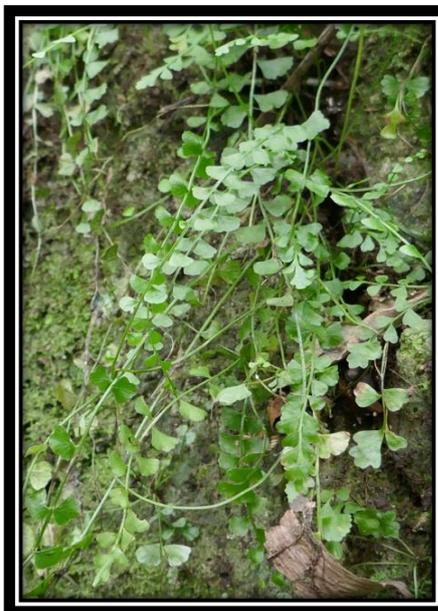
This is a great place to see smaller species, *Hymenophyllum* – both *cupressiforme* and *flabellatum*, *Polyphlebium venosum*, *Tmesipteris truncata* and *Notogrammitis billardierei*. *H flabellatum* is very secretive but the others are reasonably easy to find. Also, love three aspleniums: *flaccidum*, *flabellifolium* and *gracillimum*.



Hymenophyllum cupressiforme



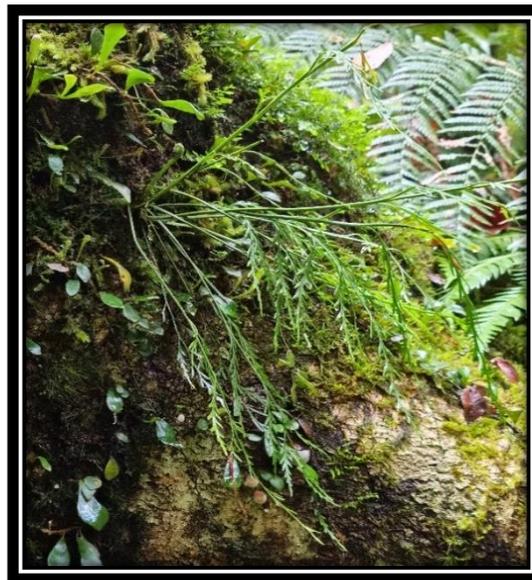
Hymenophyllum flabellatum



Asplenium flabellifolium

Ferns seen (31 species):

Species	Common Name
<i>Adiantum formosum</i>	Giant maidenhair
<i>Alsophila australis</i> (<i>Cyathea australis</i>)	Rough Tree Fern
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Birds Nest
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Necklace fern
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i> subsp. <i>flaccidum</i>	Weeping Spleenwort
<i>Asplenium gracillimum</i>	
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	Mare's Tail fern
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i> subsp. <i>patersonii</i>	Strap Water Fern
<i>Blechnum watsii</i>	Hard Water Fern
<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>	False Bracken
<i>Davallia pyxidata</i>	Hare's Foot Fern
<i>Dendroconche scandens</i>	Fragrant Fern
<i>Deparia petersenii</i> subsp. <i>congrua</i>	Japanese Lady Fern
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Soft Tree Fern
<i>Dictymia brownii</i>	Strap fern
<i>Diplazium australe</i>	Austral Lady Fern
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	Bat Wing Fern
<i>Hymenophyllum cupressiforme</i>	Common Filmy Fern
<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>	a filmy fern
<i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i>	Downy Ground Fern
<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i>	Trim Shield Fern
<i>Notogrammitis billardierei</i>	Finger Fern
<i>Parapolystichum acuminatum</i>	Shiny Shield Fern
<i>Pellaea nana</i>	Dwarf Sickle Fern
<i>Polyphlebium venosum</i>	a filmy fern
<i>Pyrrosia rupestris</i>	Rock Felt fern
<i>Sphaeropteris australis</i>	Prickly Tree Fern
<i>Sticherus lobatus</i>	Spreading Fan Fern
<i>Tmesipteris truncata</i>	
<i>Todea barbara</i>	King Fern



Asplenium flaccidum



Asplenium gracillimum

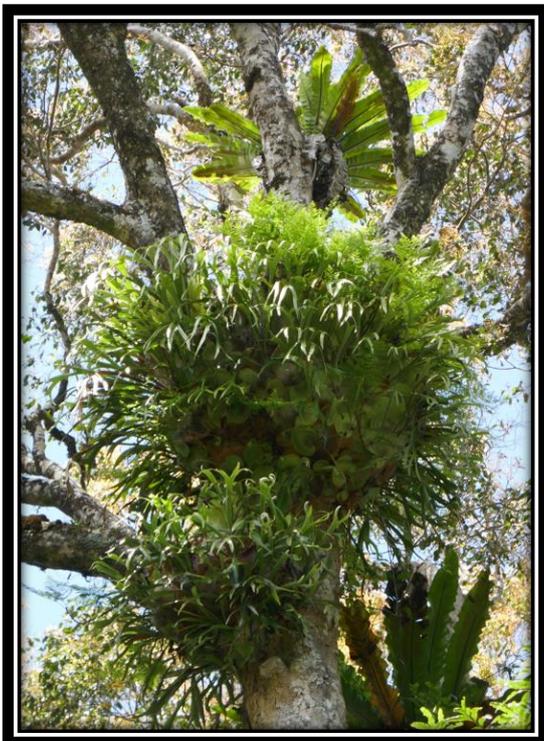
Day 3 – Sunday – Destination: Wonga Walk, Dorrigo National Park

An early start for a two hour drive along the highway then up the Waterfall Way to the magnificent Dorrigo National Park. George caught up with friends at Dunbogan and would catch up with us tomorrow. The café received a bit of patronage as we prepared for the walk. Around the café and skywalk there were 8 species which wasn't a bad start. This walk (the Wonga Walk) is a bit unusual in that the pathway is bitumen for the whole 6.6km. And there are two rather nice waterfalls enroute.



Crystal Shower Falls on left, Tristania Falls on right.

For the first half of the walk, the track goes through magnificent stands of Yellow Carrabeen, Black Booyong, Giant Stinging Trees and Strangler Figs. The Booyong and Stingers are excellent host for large ferny epiphytes.



A fairly substantial *Platycerium bifurcatum* with the occasional *Asplenium australasicum*.



A very different-looking *Arthropteris beckleri* in high humidity.

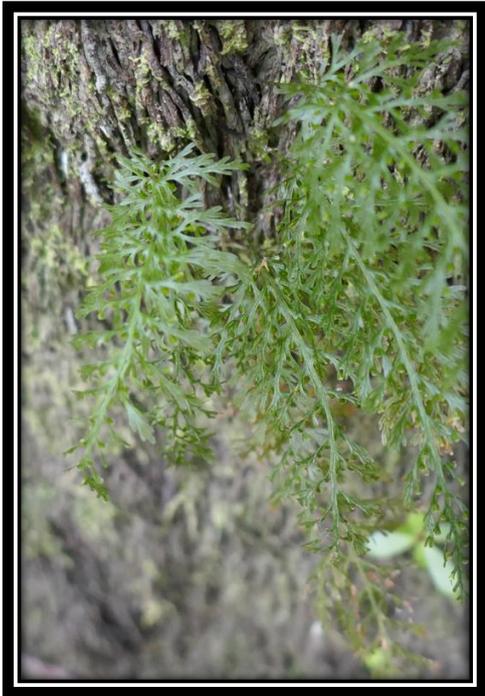
Ferns seen (34 species):

Species	Common Name
<i>Adiantum diaphanum</i>	Filmy Maidenhair
<i>Adiantum formosum</i>	Giant maidenhair
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> var. <i>hispidulum</i>	Rough Maidenhair
<i>Adiantum silvaticum</i>	Forest Maidenhair
<i>Alsophila australis</i>	Rough Tree Fern
<i>Arthropteris beckleri</i>	
<i>Arthropteris tenella</i>	Climbing Fishbone Fern
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Birds Nest
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	Mare's Tail fern
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern
<i>Blechnum neohollandicum</i>	Prickly Rasp Fern
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i> subsp. <i>patersonii</i>	Strap Water Fern
<i>Blechnum spinulosum</i> (<i>Doodia caudata</i>)	Small Rasp Fern
<i>Christella dentata</i>	Binung
<i>Davallia pyxidata</i>	Hare's Foot Fern
<i>Dendroconche scandens</i>	Fragrant Fern
<i>Deparia petersenii</i> subsp. <i>congrua</i>	Japanese Lady Fern
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Soft Tree Fern
<i>Diplazium assimile</i>	
<i>Diplazium australe</i>	Austral Lady Fern
<i>Diplazium dilatatum</i>	
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	Bat Wing Fern
<i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i>	Downy Ground Fern
<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i>	Trim Shield Fern
<i>Pellaea nana</i>	Dwarf Sickie Fern
<i>Parapolystichum acuminatum</i>	Shiny Shield Fern
<i>Parapolystichum microsorum</i>	Creeping Shield Fern
<i>Parapolystichum munitum</i>	Naked Shield Fern
<i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i>	Elkhorn
<i>Platynerium superbum</i>	Staghorn
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	Tender Brake
<i>Pteris umbrosa</i>	Jungle Brake
<i>Pyrrosia confluens</i> var. <i>confluens</i>	Robber Fern
<i>Sphaeropteris australis</i>	Prickly Tree Fern

Day 4 – Monday – Destinations: Rainforest Loop, Dooragan National Park and Googik Track, Lake Innes National Park

A much more relaxed day today. Most of the Sydney group were heading home today. Bill had the choice of divorce or stay at home (and bizarrely chose the latter) and Fran had an issue with her car and by the time that was sorted out, it was too late, and she made her way home. So that left 6 of us to explore the Rainforest Loop. At only 0.6 kms, not a long walk but at 400 meters ASL and less than a kilometre from the coast it creates a unique environment, transitioning from dry to wet eucalypt forest to rainforest. We found over 20 ferns, including three species we hadn't seen in the previous days: *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Pteridium esculentum* and the highlight of the day, the filmy *Abrodictyum caudatum* growing on *Sphaeropteris australis*.





Abrodictyum caudatum



Asplenium polyodon growing epiphytically on the trunk of a cycad, not an uncommon occurrence.

Ferns seen (22 species):

Species	Common Name
<i>Abrodictyum caudatum</i>	a filmy fern
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> var. <i>hispidulum</i>	Rough Maidenhair
<i>Alsophila australis</i>	Rough Tree Fern
<i>Arthropteris tenella</i>	Climbing Fishbone Fern
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Birds Nest
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Necklace fern
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	Mare's Tail fern
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern
<i>Blechnum neohollandicum</i>	Prickly Rasp Fern
<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>	False Bracken
<i>Davallia pyxidata</i>	Hare's Foot Fern
<i>Dendroconche scandens</i>	Fragrant Fern
<i>Hypolepis muelleri</i>	Harsh Ground Fern
<i>Parapolystichum microsorum</i>	Creeping Shield Fern
<i>Pellaea nana</i>	Dwarf Sickle Fern
<i>Pellaea paradoxa</i>	Heart Fern
<i>Platycterium bifurcatum</i>	Elkhorn
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Common Bracken
<i>Pyrrhosia confluens</i> var. <i>confluens</i>	Robber Fern
<i>Pyrrhosia rupestris</i>	Rock Felt fern
<i>Sphaeropteris australis</i>	Prickly Tree Fern
<i>Sphaeropteris cooperi</i>	Coin Spot Tree Fern

The final excursion was along a section of the Googik Heritage walking track at the Lake Innes Nature Reserve in Port Macquarie. This walk through bushland straddling Kooloobung Creek was a contrast to our rainforest walks and we saw a smaller, but quite different, set of ferns, including *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Cyclosorus interruptus* and *Lindsaea linearis*. We spent some time admiring the longer fertile fronds of the *Lindsaea* which had smaller pinnules with uneven outer margins and marginal sori.



Land mullet



Gleichenia dicarpa

Ferns seen (10 species):

Species	Common Name
<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>	False Bracken
<i>Christella dentata</i>	Binung
<i>Cyclosorus interruptus</i>	Swamp Shield Fern
<i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>	Pouched Coral/Tangle Fern
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	Bat Wing Fern
<i>Hypolepis muelleri</i>	Harsh Ground Fern
<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>	Screw Fern
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	Sword fern
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Common Bracken
<i>Sphaeropteris cooperi</i>	Coin Spot Tree fern



Lindsaea linearis

Some Highlights of Port Macquarie Trip

Wendy Johnston, Helen Jeremy

This fern excursion weekend was full of highlights. It was lovely to see so many rainforest ferns in their natural environment and in prime condition. Here are just a few highlights below...

- Recognising *Lastreopsis acuminata* and distinguishing it from *Lastreopsis munita*.



Lastreopsis acuminata



Lastreopsis munita

- Seeing filmy ferns – *Hymenosporum cupressiforme*, *H. flabellatum* and *Polyphlebium venosum*, including many fertile specimens of *H. cupressiforme*.

- Finding *Notogrammitis billardierei*.
- Distinguishing the different *Diplaziums* – *australe*, *assimile* and *dilatatum*.



Diplazium assimile



Diplazium australe



Diplazium dilatatum

- Finding the many *Aspleniums* – *australasicum*, *flabellifolium*, *polyodon*, *flaccidum* and *gracillimum*, the latter two being of great interest to the Qld crew because they're ferns they don't often get to see.



Asplenium flaccidum



Asplenium gracillimum



Asplenium flabellifolium

- Seeing ancient *Todea barbara* specimens, as well as *Tmesipteris truncata*, on the King Fern walking track.

- Finding *Cyclosorus interruptus* in a creek.



Cyclosorus interruptus

South-East Queensland Meeting Reports

Tallanbana, Springbrook National Park – 9 October 2022

Michelle McLean/Helen Jeremy

We had planned to walk the circuit at Purling Brook Falls but the track was closed due to damage from recent heavy rain. Meeting in the shelter at Tallanbana instead, a small group of six all agreed that the day would be rewarding as we could already see many species of ferns before we set off to explore the Twin Falls area. Excursions to Tallanbana always offer a rich selection of ferns and it's a favourite place we return to, so it was exciting that we made an interesting discovery on this excursion. We're happy to report the weather held out for us despite the thunder-stormy forecast and we received a maximum of 0.2mm rain which was quite delightful in the rainforest.

The first 100 metres or so did not disappoint. We saw two varieties of tree fern, *Sphaeropteris australis* and *Alsophila australis*, and many juveniles. Amongst the moss-covered trees were healthy specimens of *Arthropteris tenella* climbing, and along the trunks, *Platycerium bifurcatum*, *Platycerium superbum* and *Asplenium australasicum*. Hanging from the base of one of the bird's nests was an *Asplenium polyodon*, with its shiny pendulous fronds hanging 50-60 cm towards the ground. Further along the path, there was a sea of green, bronze and pinkish growth of *Blechnum cartilagineum* and *B. watsii* at different stages of development. We spent some time pointing out the dimorphic fronds to a new member; the *B. cartilagineum* displayed a beautiful, tall black fertile frond and we discussed how

ferns reproduce. Using a hand lens, we also looked at the underside of the *Gleichenia dicarpa* to reveal the tiny pockets that hold the spores.

The next prolific fern along the path was *Sticherus lobatus*. Then without an obvious change in terrain, a glossy green thicket of *Sticherus flabellatus* became visible forming several layers of interesting fronds. We also found *Pteris tremula*, a fern which we did not record on our five previous visits, suggesting it has popped up after the recent extensive rain the region has had.

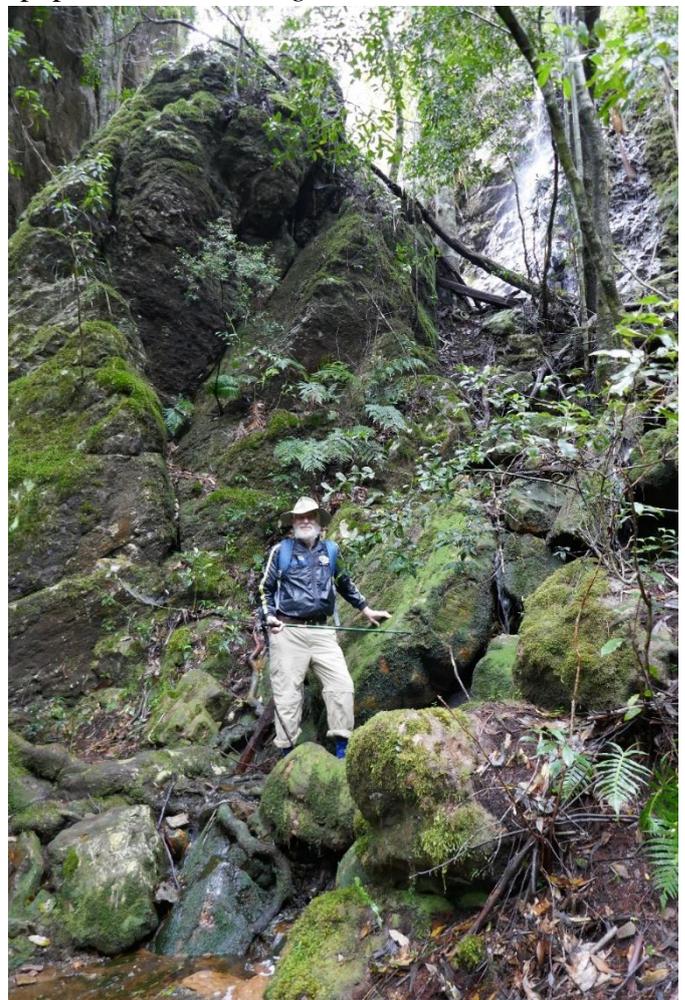
Chugging along the path towards the rock faces, we spotted an inconspicuous *Davallia pyxidata* on the underside of a *Xanthorrhoea sp.* However its rhizome was not clearly visible. The fronds were about 30 cm long.

We reached the infamous rock wall covered in tiny ferns (which without close inspection could be mistaken for moss) and found several fertile specimens of *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*. We spent some time poring over the rocks to admire *Grammitis stenophylla* and *Hymenophyllum marginatum*, the filmy fern whose fronds have black margins and midribs. Although the books tell us that there can be tufts of reddish-brown hairs along the base of the *H. marginatum* fronds, we couldn't see them with our hand lens.

The group divided at the rocks where the path goes two ways. Some headed back to the picnic tables for lunch while Helen and Graham continued another 300m downwards through the gap in the rocks to discover five more ferns. Unfortunately for the rest of the party, it was here that the highlight of the day was found. Graham discovered a second population of *H. marginatum* on rocks on the left-hand side of the path after we emerged from the gap.

A little further down the slope, we found *Adiantum diaphanum* growing in the mud wall at the side of the path, a species we had not recorded on the five previous excursions here since 2008. We also found *Parapolystichum munitum*, which we did not see on our two previous visits in 2019.

Species seen : *Abrodictyum caudatum*, *Adiantum diaphanum*, *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hypoglaucum*, *Adiantum silvaticum*, *Alsophila australis* (*Cyathea australis*), *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Blechnum patersonii*, *Blechnum wattsii*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dendroconche scandens* (*Microsorium scandens*), *Dictymia brownii*, *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Gleichenia rupestris*, *Grammitis stenophylla*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, *Hymenophyllum marginatum*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Lindsaea microphylla*, *Parapolystichum munitum* (*Lastreopsis munita*), *Pellaea nana*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *Platynerium superbum*, *Pteris tremula*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Sphaeropteris australis* (*Cyathea leichhardtiana*), *Sticherus flabellatus*, *Sticherus lobatus*, *Tmesipteris ovata*.



Graham indicates the newly found patch of *Hymenophyllum marginatum*

Other Articles

Drynaria Photos

George Hardy

I am a fan of *Drynarias* and have recently taken a few photos of nest fronds: mature and skeleton, I am waiting for a new green one so I can add it to the trilogy early March. The red we encountered at a gallery in the Blue Mountains. The nest frond pictures make interesting screen savers.

