



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

## *Newsletter Number 155*

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### **Fern Study Group Fern Gathering!!!**

*Jeff Lynne*

**Friday 4th November to Monday 7th November 2023.** Pretty much set the itinerary now.

**Friday 4th November. Mt Wilson.** The Sydney group go here regularly. Totally worthwhile. Expect about 30 ferns. Bush track starting easy enough but gets a bit steepish as we descend into the valley.

**Saturday 5th November. Wentworth Falls.** Track is in very good condition, a fair few stairs but relatively easy. Great scenery and the ferns should be different and interesting.

**Sunday 6th November. Budderoo National Park, Minnamurra Falls.** The Minnamurra Falls Walk has been closed for a while but now it's open and ready to flash it's ferns at us. With well over 50 species in the area it should be a good day's exploring.

**Monday 7th November. Verdigris Nursery, Currowan (near Batemans Bay).** Dwayne and Kylie of Verdigris Nursery fame have kindly opened their nursery to us. Apart from seeing a dazzling range of exotic and native ferns, there will be a chance to interrogate them on the how to's of fern propagation. Not to be missed.

So far, we have a contingent of about 12 interested bodies but there's plenty of room for more. Interested? Give Jeff a call on 0412-728-626 or ferndog0112@gmail.com and let him know.

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### **Program for Sydney Region**

*Peter Hind*

**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 and 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 and at the 4th set of traffic lights (about 3k) turn **right** into **Maliwa Road** & **right** again between Nos. 5 and 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 43246077 or mobile 0415512511**

**Saturday 21 October 2023.** Meet at Peter Olde's Country Residence at 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale at 11am. Ring Peter on 0432110463 if lost on the way there. **Travel Instructions to Peter Olde's at Oakdale.** Access via M5. Take Picton turn-off, 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. 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 96542533 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**

**Saturday 17 February 2021.** 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. **Phone Peter Hind on 96258705 or email [petehin@bigpond.com](mailto:petehin@bigpond.com)**

**Saturday 23 March 2024 NOTE A WEEK LATER THAN USUAL.** 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 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). The water tank near the cars (unreliable), is 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. **Register attendance, Phone Peter Hind 96258705 Or email [petehin@bigpond.com](mailto:petehin@bigpond.com)**

**Saturday 20 April 2024.** 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.**

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.**

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

*Helen Jeremy*

**Sunday 10 September - Korrumbyn Creek, Mt Warning NSW.** Meet at 9.30 am at Wollumbin Palms Retreat, 112 Mt Warning Road, Mt Warning (just past Mavis’ Kitchen). Park at reception. We’ll be visiting this 65-acre private property along Korrumbyn Creek to discover what ferns are in residence. We’ll plan our walk according to the weather on the day. There is a creek crossing which is a causeway that we’ll need to cross, either barefoot or by car. There might be some steep terrain that we may or may not venture over, so you might like to bring poles if you need them.

BYO morning tea and lunch to have at the rotunda on site. You need to BYO enough drinking water for the day. For more details, please contact Michelle McLean 0414 920336.

**Sunday 8 October - Study topic “Propagating ferns from spore” at Bonni Yee’s residence, Nerang.** Meet at 9.30 am at 158 Country Crescent, Nerang. Drive up the 300m driveway and park at the top. We’ll discuss some different methods of propagating ferns from spore and have a practical

workshop. Please bring along any spore you are able to collect from your ferns at home, as well as any favourite media or equipment you might have. If you have some experience in spore propagation it would be great if you could demonstrate your method, so please bring along the materials you need.

Bring morning tea to share if you're able. BYO lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

**Friday 3 to Monday 6 November - Trip to NSW.** See Jeff's notice earlier in newsletter.

**Sunday 3 December - Christmas gathering.** Meet at 9.30 am at Helen's home at 71 Stuartholme Road, Bardon, for our end of year gathering and traditional "round-robin" raffle fern swap. Please bring a fern(s) to swap if you can. Bring morning tea to share if you can. BYO lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

Please RSVP for all SEQ meetings to Helen Jeremy at [heljeremy@gmail.com](mailto:heljeremy@gmail.com)

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## Sydney Area Meeting Reports

### Grand Canyon Walk – Neates Glen – 15 July 2023

I had forgotten how beautiful this walk is. We saw...

*Lindsea microphylla*



*Sticherus lobatus*



*Polyphlebium venosum*



*Leptopteris fraseri*



*Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*



*Gleichenia dicarpa* and *Pseudolycopodium densum* (formerly *Lycopodium deuterodensum*)



*Parablechnum ambiguum*



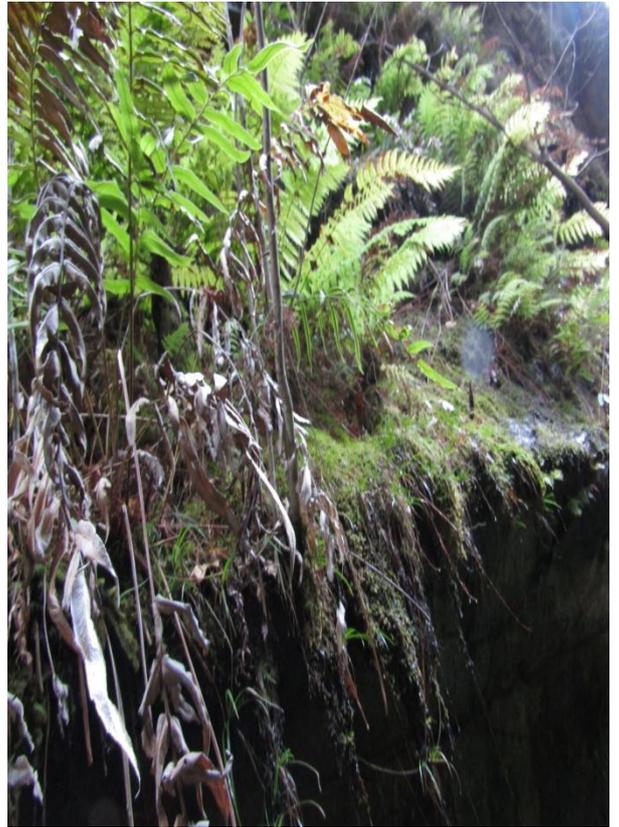
*Todea barbara*



*Rumohra adiantiformis* on Coachwood



*Parablechnum gregsonianum*



*Sticherus urceolatus* (hairs under pinnules)



*Notogrammitis billardierei* (note stipe hairs)



*Dawsonia superba* (a moss)



*Pyrrhobryum* (a moss)



*Rimacola elliptica* (an orchid)



Waterfalls



Amazing Stepping Stones (Helicoptered in)



Serenity



## More Serenity



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## South-East Queensland Meeting Reports

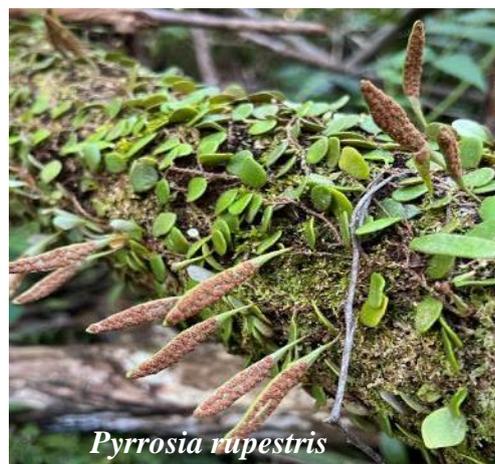
### Excursion to Cunningham's Gap, July 2023

Wendy Johnston

The fern group gathered at West Gap picnic Area in the Main Range NP, just to the west of the Gap itself. The plan was to car shuffle people to the Crest carpark and walk the 2.5km track from rainforest to box forest and the picnic area. However, it was noted on passing the Crest carpark was crowded and a bit chaotic so we opted to do a return walk to the top and back. There has been plenty of rain this year and the forest floor was lush with growth, largely ferns.



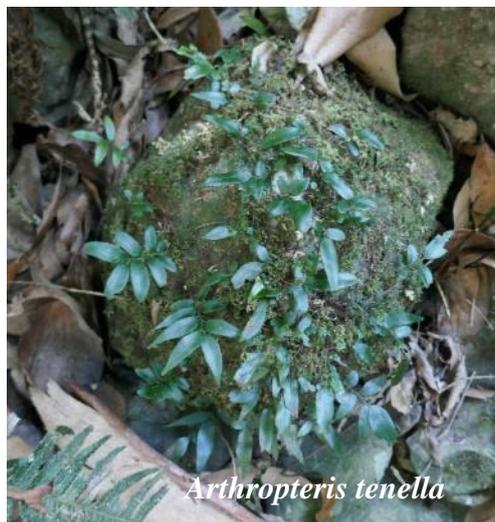
We started by crossing the creek and as sunlight penetrated the canopy at that point, there were plenty of ferns to check out – *Pteris tremula*, *Adiantum formosum*, *Adiantum hispidulum* and *Blechnum neohollandicum* to name a few. *Pyrrosia rupestris* and *Pyrrosia confluens* adorned the trees. *Pteris tremula* was prominent throughout the lower part of the walk, standing up tall and robust.



*Pyrrosia rupestris*

As we progressed, *Asplenium australasicum* could be seen in many trees and in the rocks. *Lastreopsis decomposita* dominated through the box forest. Further up we came into the rainforest where *Arthropteris tenella* and *Dendroconche scandens* climbed the tree trunks and *Arachniodes aristata* and *Pellaea nana* appeared along the track. At a gully crossing was a healthy stand of *Sphaeropteris cooperi* but these were the only tree ferns we saw. *Parapolystichum microsorum* took over from *L. decomposita* for a while but *L. decomposita* held on right to the top.

An interesting fern for the trip was a lone plant of *Polystichum formosum* – about halfway up the track. [For verification of identification we enlisted the aid of Peter B. by phone. Isn't technology wonderful!]



*Arthropteris tenella*



*Lastreopsis decomposita*

After nearly 3 hours and only about halfway to the crest, half the group returned to the picnic area for lunch while a few stalwarts marched on to the top and back down again. On our return to the first creek crossing we noticed *Pellaea paradoxa* right beside the path – clearly there is value in going in both directions on a track.

29 ferns were seen on the walk and we enjoyed our day 'ferning'.

Ferns seen: *Adiantum atroviride*, *Adiantum formosum*, *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Arachniodes aristata*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Blechnum neohollandicum* (*Doodia aspera*), *Blechnum spinulosum* (*Doodia caudata*), *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dendroconche scandens* (*Microsorium scandens*), *Dictymia brownii*, *Diplazium assimile*, *Diplazium australe*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *Parapolystichum microsorum* (*Lastreopsis microsora*), *Parapolystichum munitum* (*Lastreopsis munita*), *Pellaea nana*, *Pellaea paradoxa*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *Platynerium superbum*, *Polystichum formosum*, *Pteris tremula*, *Pteris umbrosa*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Sphaeropteris cooperi* (*Cyathea cooperi*).



*Polystichum formosum*

## A pocket full of ferns, Baroon Pocket Dam, Kondalilla National Park 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Brendan McIntyre

The Blackall range combined with intermittent rain and high humidity provided the perfect backdrop for a fern study group outing – it was like the fern gods knew that we were about to embark on a momentous tour of fern rediscovery. Verdant fronds would be pulsing with life. To guide us, the Johnstons forged their way through the forest recalling some of the most clandestine fern-rich haunts.

On setting out from the Kondalilla National Park car park at Baroon Pocket dam, the Fern Study Group (the fernies) were greeted immediately with a number of filigreed specimens, namely, *Sphaeropteris cooperi*, *Christella dentata*, and *Adiantum silvaticum*. The *A. silvaticum* would prove to be a trusty companion throughout most of the walk to the Baroon Lookout.



*Haplopteris ensiformis* fighting for space as *Nephrolepis cordifolia* encroaches. Photo: Wendy Johnston



A bunch of fernies in their element

For those not well acquainted with *A. silvaticum*, it has a slightly different appearance to the *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, which it often appeared next to on the walk. No better place to compare and contrast was at the beginning of the track on the left side when entering the forest. In comparison to *A. hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, *A. silvaticum* is generally taller, the pinnules (leaflets) have a bluish hue and look larger. The sori in *A. silvaticum* are larger, less numerous and do not encompass the perimeter of the pinnule quite like that of *A. hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*. The ultimate giveaway - fine white hairs are absent on the pinnules. Whereas *A. hispidulum* var. *hispidulum* emerges from nooks and crannies in small colonies, *A. silvaticum* forms large swathes across the forest floor in Kondalilla National Park, carpeting the feet of giant turpentines, brush boxes and black butts. As a group, we often paused just to absorb the visual spectacle laid out in front of us. However, more treasures were at hand, motivating us to venture further to Narrows Lookout.

The walk out to the lookout proved to be a fern hotspot revealing no less than 10 species: *Asplenium australasicum*, *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Blechnum doodianum*, *Blechnum neohollandicum*, *Cheilanthes distans*, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Drynaria rigidula*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Pellaea nana*, and *Pyrrosia confluens*. And when we weren't busily inspecting the ground near our feet, we occasionally lifted our heads to take in the sublime water hewn vista.



Helen hanging with the *Blechnum doodianum*

Inspired, but in no hurry to leave Narrows Lookout, we ascended into the land of the epiphytes and lithophytes. Initially, we bumped into a large colony of *Asplenium australasicum* sitting atop boulders and marking the gateway to the next part of the walk. On crossing the next stream, Helen recorded *Ophioglossum pendulum* cascading out of a nest of *Platynerium bifurcatum* shield fronds. The scene seemed staged, as we hovered on the foot bridge and looked directly at the rare find. For future reference, it was growing in a tree neighbouring a Gondwanan brown pine (*Podocarpus elatus*), that was leaning precariously over the creek.

Not long after, Dan took us off track, taking us further along a creek lined with piccabeen palms and vertical stone walls. *Dendroconche scandens* decorated the piccabeen trunks, simple margins on juvenile fronds giving way to deeply lobed ones as they reached greater heights. Down below, *Adiantum diaphanum* eked out an existence among the cracks in the exposed rock bed along the creek. Members of the fern study group reactivated forgotten muscles in their efforts to get their eyes down to water level, loupes in hand, attempting to observe the raised fine black bristles on *A. diaphanum* in the hopelessly low light of the gully - the definition of pteridomania if ever there was one.



Pteridomania strikes

But unbeknownst to the other fernies, Dan was playing a game of one-upmanship in the pteridomania stakes and casually waded into dark leech infested waters in his search for some of the more delicate epiphytic ferns growing in the shadow of the gully's rock wall. He struck fern gold, getting us close to *Asplenium attenuatum*, spider like bulbils creeping out, and the fine leaved *Haplopteris* (*Vittaria*) *ensiformis*, thin lines of sori running parallel to the blades.

As a climax, and not too far from the Baroon lookout, *Lindsaea microphylla*, sprung out of the track at the feet of another forest giant. It seemed like an awfully dry location for such an exquisite fern to grow. Its pinnule margins looked like they'd been ruthlessly cut off and had turned brown with rot, when in fact, they were spent indusia, with only a few still holding sori. And as the *L. microphylla* sori dwindled, so too did the number of Fern Study Group members, apart from Wendy, Dan and Helen, who demonstrated true grit and made it to the Baroon Lookout. And as a reward for their persistence, they managed to record *Alsophila australis* on the return walk.

Ferns seen: *Adiantum diaphanum*, *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, *Adiantum silvaticum*, *Alsophila australis*, *Arachniodes aristata*, *Arthropteris beckleri*, *Asplenium attenuatum*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Blechnum doodianum*, *Blechnum neohollandicum*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Cheilanthes distans*, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Christella dentata*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dendroconche scandens*, *Drynaria rigidula*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Lindsaea microphylla*, *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, *Ophioglossum pendulum*, *Pellaea nana*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Sphaeropteris australis*, *Sphaeropteris cooperi*, *Sticherus flabellatus*. *Psilotum nudum* was also seen on a private footpath just before the start of the walk.

Members present: Wendy, Dan, Fran, Bev, Susan, Helen, Yve & Brendan.

## Other Articles

### A Trip to New Zealand

*Steve Lamont*

In January, we went on a short trip to Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington. Here are some highlights.

#### Auckland – Keka Bush Reserve



Lots of *Blechnum parrisiae*



*Pteris macilentata*?



Obligatory *Alsophila dealbata*



*Asplenium oblongifolium*



*Adiantum aethiopicum*



This looked like a dimorphic *Cyathea*

#### *Lomaria discolor* and *Parablechnum procerum*



# Auckland Domain Fernery



Mostly *Selaginella* and *Dendroconche scandens*



*Asplenium* sp.

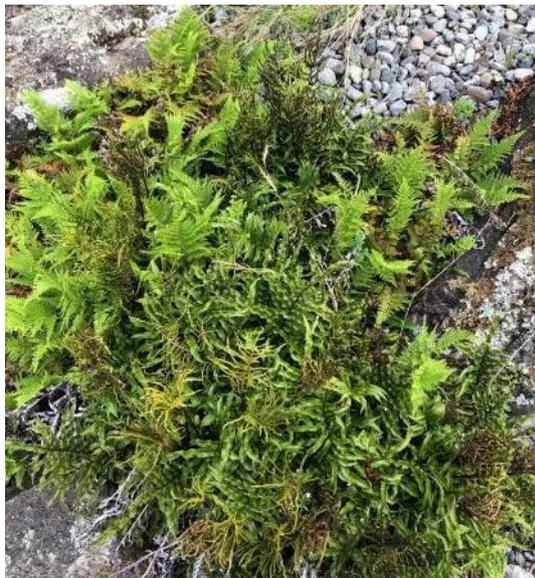


Young Henry and lots of ferns



*Sphaeropteris medullaris*, more *Selaginella* and *Dendroconche scandens*

Wellington – Otari-Wilton's Bus



*Lomaria discolor* (above) and something else (left)

*Parablechnum novae-zealandiae*? (below)



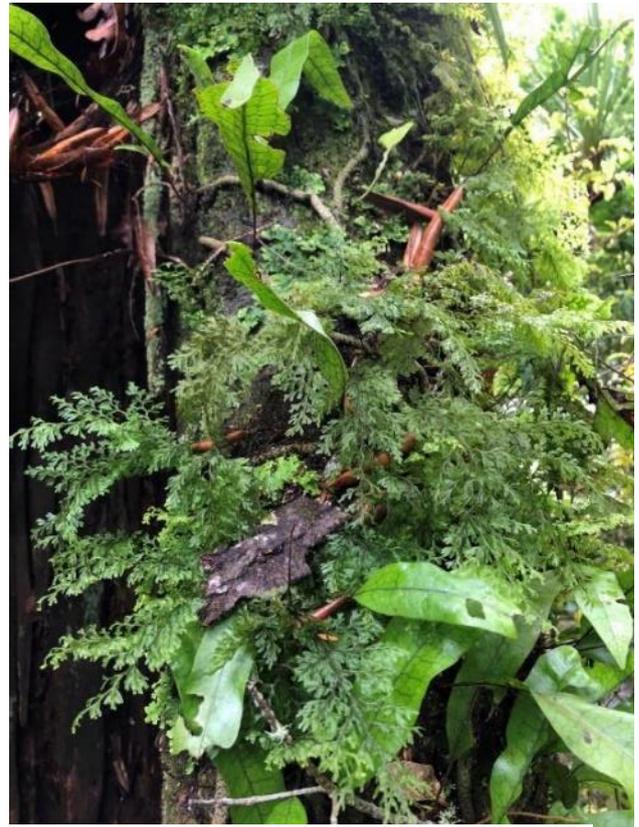
Nice bridge with *Sphaeropteris medullaris*



*Lomaria discolor*



*Zealandia pustulata* (formerly *Microsorium*)



Two nice trunks – one with *Asplenium flaccidum* and *Dendroconche scandens*; the other with *D. scandens* and *Hymenophyllum dilatatum*?



Something?



*Icarus (Blechnum) filiformis* climbing trees



*Hymenophyllum demissum*



*Austroblechnum lanceolatum*

Auckland Botanic Gardens



*Austroblechnum lanceolatum*



*Lastreopsis hispida*



*Austroblechnum colensoi*



*Cranfillia fluviatilis (Blechnum fluviatile)*