



I.G.A.P. Fern Study Group

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Dear Members:

I find it hard to know where to start, after a trip to North Queensland where there is so much to see. We all suffered from a nasty dose of 'flu, which we did not want to pass onto others, but dosing ourselves with medicine, enabled us to enjoy ourselves.

I must apologise to the members around Cairns who I had planned to see, and spend a lot of time with. There are many questions I had planned to ask.

Many thanks to Monica and Arthur Sharp for, what I am told was a most enjoyable and rewarding day on 28th May. Arthurs demonstration of the manufacture of wire baskets proved very interesting. Many thanks to Margaret, Sylvia and John for their help.

A very pleasant day was spent on Sunday 26th May, again, at Bola Creek. About fifteen members took a leisurely stroll along the creek and up amongst the rocks. After lunch, Syd. Cook led the group along another section of the creek bank where, amongst other ferns, *Cyathea australis* and *Cyathea leichhardtiana* and dainty filmy ferns were growing. Altogether, thirty five different species of ferns were found and identified.

The 28th. and 29th. September, are the dates on which the Wild-flower Exhibition at Castle Hill, will be held. Our plans for the display are well underway. We will be calling on members with strong backs and arms to help on the days leading up to the Exhibition.

Phyll Brown.

A TRIP TO NORTH QUEENSLAND

By Viv. Brown.

On the 19th. April, the Duncans and the Browns set out on a trip to North Queensland, travelling along the Pacific Highway.

On the journey north, an interesting few hours were spent with Ross and Margaret Scott at Kenilworth, about 30km west of Nambour. Ross has been a regular contributor to the newsletter with accounts of some of his excursions into the rainforests. He has quite a collection of native ferns, trees and shrubs which will grow naturally in the area, as well as a large collection of dried plant specimens.

The road from Tully northward to Mission Beach passes through pockets of thick rainforest, right up to the road. Close to Mission Beach, large plants of *Blechnum orientale* were at first thought to be young palms until closer examination revealed the true identity. *Lygodium reticulatum* climbed around tree trunks and over low growing shrubs and fallen branches of trees.

The forward trip to Daintree was marred by continual rain, due to the extended wet season and influenza which affected all of the group.

A dry, restful and quiet night was spent at the Daintree caravan park. Next morning, the two campervans were ferried across the Daintree River, the road to Cape Tribulation, about 37 km to the north, lay ahead. There were two other vehicles, which were allowed to pass, enabling a more leisurely pace which gave more time to observe the vegetation which grew right up to the edge of the narrow road. Most of this was thick impenetrable jungle with tall trees, shrubby undergrowth and ferns. Large colonies of *Acrostichum speciosum* grew with *Blechnum indicum* in swampy land just across the Daintree river. A species of *Lindsaea* thought to be *L. obtusa*, large form, was found growing on a clay bank near the lookout on Alexandra Range.

The road was in a better condition than expected. The passage of vehicles had flattened out the road surface in the wet dirt sections leaving a hard surface, other parts of the road, although a single car track was good gravel, but the remainder, particularly in the Alexandra Range section, was very rough exposed rocky surface with two steep hills where the road was also wet rough and slippery.

The bouncing stones at Thorntons beach did not bounce as well, as was shown on a documentary seen last year. Two establishments thought to be out of place in this wilderness were the Floraville Tea Gardens, run by Bill and Betty Hinton. This is also a general store selling unique souvenirs, petrol, diesel and gas. The other was the Council camping area at Thorntons Beach with boat ramp, kiosk which was open every day selling amongst other fare, take away food.

Two creeks, swiftly flowing with water about $\frac{1}{2}$ metre deep in places were negotiated with little trouble. The journey north however, ended at Cyanide Creek about 9 km from Cape Tribulation. This creek was running fast, and the water was considered too deep and the opposite bank too wet and slippery for the conventional vehicles. The drivers of two other vehicles, who arrived at the creek crossing, came to the same conclusion.

Back at Cairns, outside the Court House, the two magnificent specimens of *Drynaria rigidula* must be seen by any visiting fern collector. These ferns about $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres in diameter completely encircle the palms to which the ferns are attached. One is so heavy it has slipped down the trunk of the palm and now rests on the ground. The masses of *Pyrrosia longifolia* on the historical church of St. David, at Mossman, and the surrounding trees is an unbelievable sight. Before the trip was over the sight of huge clumps of *D. rigidula* and masses of *P. longifolia* covering whole trees became a common sight.

Adjacent to Kuranda caravan park, located on the mountain above Cairns, growing in long grass was a species of *Lindsaea* identified as *L. ensifolia* ssp. *agattii*.

The Mossman Gorge displayed large numbers of ferns including, *Asplenium australasicum* or *nidus* (too high up in the trees to be definitely identified), *Pyrrosia longifolia*, *Platycterium bifurcatum*, *Drynaria rigidula*, *Humata repens*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Pronephrium asperum* and a *Lindsaea* species which could not be identified, but was thought to be *L. obtusa* or *L. brachypoda*. Native orchids and *hoya* also grows on the tall trees.

Two of the rarer species of ferns not previously seen were found growing in a nursery. These were *Pyrrosia lanceolata* and *Gtenopteris gordonii*.

Two disappointments, not meeting Carol and Arthur Stroud of the Barrier Reef Nursery who supply a lot of ferns for the sales area at the Sydney Wildflower Exhibition, and Irene and Jeanette Champion who live at Slade Point, Mackay, who we missed by about one hour. They contribute to the Newsletter.

Again visited Mrs Bosworth at Ingham. Everything was very damp from the recent rain, but this did not interfere with an enjoyable tour of the extensive shade house and the large garden.

The Palmerston National Park is situated on the Palmerston Highway about 35 km west of Innisfail. This area receives about 3500 mm of rain annually. This is amongst the highest in Australia falling between December and March. The usual rainforest ferns were found growing there, but for the first time seen growing naturally were masses of Antrophym species on wet boulders down in a gorge.

On the journey home called to see new members Mary and Keith O'Brien at Benarby near Gladstone. They have invited any members visiting the area, to call and see the new native gardens. They are members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants interested in all native plants.

The township of Seventeen Seventy is located on the coast about midway between Gladstone and Bundaberg. Access is by road from Miriam Vale or Bundaberg. There is a warning on the road map for these roads; 'Care should be taken if travelling these roads. They are always rough, dusty and corrugated with rocky outcrops.' It is so named because in the year 1770, at a place marked by a cairn, Lieutenant James Cook landed from the "Endeavour", at Round Hill Heads on 24th May. This was the first landing on what is now Queensland. It is on this headland, protected by Grevilleas, Pandanus and Melaleucas, that Microsorium punctatum and Drynaria sparsisora are growing with great profusion covering acres of ground and rocks.

During the trip very large clumps of epiphytic ferns were seen cluttering the upper trunks and branches of tall rain forest trees. It is remarkable how these trees can sustain the tremendous weight of these ferns particularly during the wet season when the clumps are full of water.

About 12 km south of Gin Gin on the Bruce Highway, a new member, Megan Wray runs the Wallaville Fern Nursery, where the emphasis is on the rarer ferns.

Called at the Highway Nursery, Woombye which is owned by members Daphne, Des. and Steven Moran, where a large range of ferns are available.

The last call was to see Irene and Russell Cullen at Rochedale. This was a hurried call due to the wet weather and a bad case of influenza. However there was time for a quick look at their delightful garden and different species of ferns.

PROGRAMME SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND MEMBERS.

Irene Cullen has advised the programme for South East Queensland members.

Sunday 9th. June.

Joyce and Alan Wards home Fahey Road, Mt. Glorious at 9.30am
Study - Tree Ferns.

Sunday 14th. July.

Excursion - Conondale Forest Park - Leader Ross Scott. Meet 9.15am
Tresch Park, Maleny then follow the leader to Little Yabba Creek
Picnic Grounds to meet Ross at 10.00am.

Sunday 11th. August.

Peter Bostocks' home 59 Limosa St., Bellbowrie at 9.30am
Study - "Fern Spores".

Any member of the Fern Study Group is invited to attend these outings.

APPRECIATION.

Our Secretary, John Lee, received the following note from Matt Busby, Hon. General Secretary, British Pteridological Society.

" May I take this opportunity at thanking you for a most interesting Newsletter and trust that your members find our journals equally interesting."

Thank you Matt for your kind words. We find the journals issued by your Society most interesting and educational, and look forward to each issue.

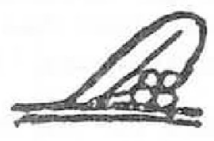
Frond pattern of *Gleichenia dicarpa* - *microphylla*
rupestris



pinna & pinnule



G. rupestris



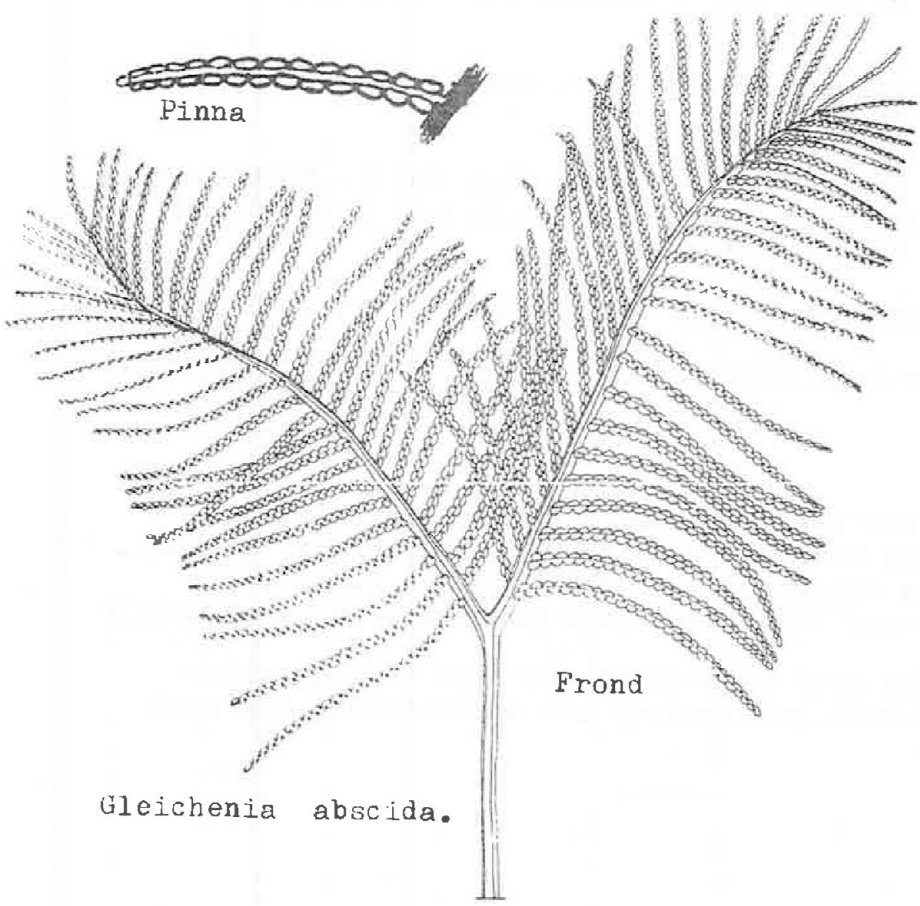
G. microphylla



G. dicarpa



Pinna



Frond

Gleichenia abscida.

FAMILY - Gleicheniaceae.GENUS - Gleichenia. J. Sm.(Gli kē'ni ā.)

This is a small genus of terrestrial ferns of which five are found in Australia.

These are known as coral and umbrella ferns and are easily recognised by the unusual fronds which continually branch, in some instances forming tangled scrambling masses covering large areas.

These ferns cover a wide range growing in wet, boggy areas, road cuttings, edges of rainforests but do not grow in full shade. The rhizomes grow in the wet damp soil but the fronds can be in full sunlight.

This is a hardy genus but is very difficult to transplant large plants so it is desirable to purchase small one and cut the bottom out of the container so as not to disturb the fern.

Gleichenia abscida.

The rhizome is long creeping, about 6mm thick. The fronds are erect being once forked with no bud in the fork. This is a rare fern endemic to Tasmania.

Gleichenia alpina.

The rhizome is longcreeping, thin wiry. The fronds are upright are not branched as much as the three following species This species in New Zealand was previously known as *G. dicarpa* var. *alpina*. The species has been found growing in Tasmania and New Zealand but not on the mainland of Australia.

Gleichenia dicarpa.

The rhizome is long creeping slender much branched. The fronds are erect branching many times, eventually forming a tangled mass.

The pinnae are about 4cm long with small pinnules, which are round, the margins are recurved to form a pouch which contains generally two yellow sporangia. This fern has been given the common name of Pouched Coral Fern. The pouched form can be seen easily with a magnifying glass.

The species covers large areas in wet conditions and is found from Tasmania, all eastern states to North Queensland New Zealand and South East Asia.

Gleichenia microphylla.

The growth is similar to the above specie. The pinnae are dark green above, light below. The many small pinnules are rounded, the top slightly recurved covering the sporangia.

This species grows in all Australian states as well as New Zealand and South East Asia.

Gleichenia rupestris.

This species is similar in growth and appearance to the two above species. The pinnules are green above but glaucous on the under side. The pinna consists of many small pinnules which contain from 2 to 4 sporangia.

The specie grows in Southern Queensland and New South Wales.

The drawings of the ferns in this newsletter were produced by curtesy of;-

Flora of North Eastern N.S.W. by N.C.W. Beadle.

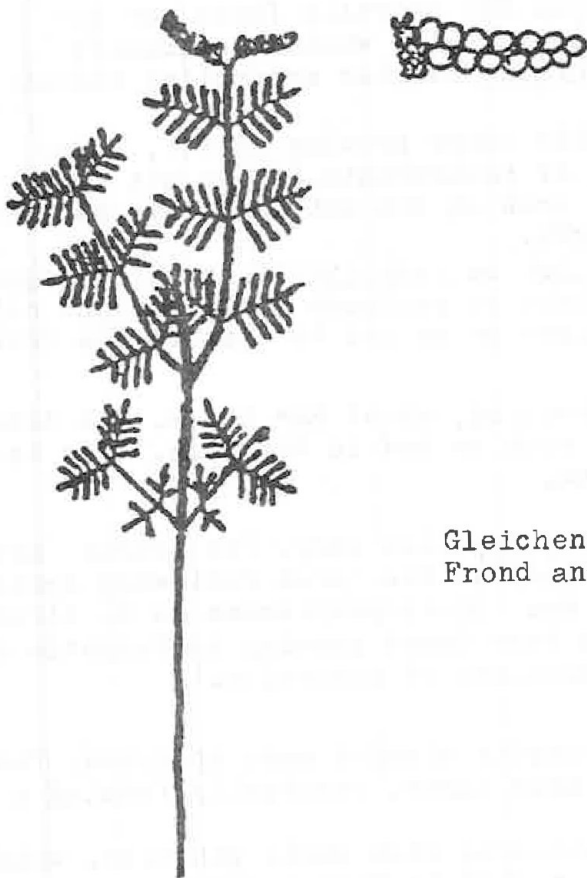
Ferns of Victoria and Tasmania N.A. Wakefield.

and Gleichenia Abscida from the cover of the Tasmanian Fern Society newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW

A lot of people have reported that their Lycopodiums (tassel ferns) are turning yellow and dropping tips and fronds.

It is important to remember most of these ferns grow on trees and some on rocks. The only water they get is when it rains. So please if you own some of these lovely ferns let them dry out after watering & if growing in pots or baskets use a very course mixture.



Gleichenia alpina.
Frond and pinna.

PROGRAMME.

Sunday, 23rd June, 1985.

Meet at 10.30am at the home of Sylvia and David Garlick, 3 Valleyview Crescent, off Caldarra Avenue, Engadine. Please bring your lunch and a "plate" for afternoon tea.

A propagation demonstration has been arranged, so if you have any plastic 'take away' clear food containers please bring them along.

Sunday, 21st. July, 1985.

Royal Botanic Gardens.

Meet near the glasshouses at 10.00am. Bring a picnic lunch. There is food available at the kiosk in the gardens.

Sunday, 18th. August, 1985.

Meet at 11.00am at the home of Dorothy and Kyrel Taylor, 16 Elizabeth Crescent, Yagoona. Please bring your lunch and a "plate" for afternoon tea.

Elizabeth Crescent is off Edgar Street, the first turn to the left from the Hume Highway.

Saturday and Sunday 28th and 29th September, 1985.

Castle Hill Showground. Annual S.G.A.P. Wildflower Exhibition.

Assistance will also be needed on Thursday and Friday 26th and 27th. Any member able to assist please contact me.

EXCURSION TO MAIALA NATIONAL PARK.By Irene Cullen.

On Sunday 1st. May nine members of the Fern Study Group braved indifferent weather and slippery terrain for an excursion along a branch of Love Creek in the Maiala National Park. (Part of the Brisbane Forest Park area).

Our leader was Peter Bostock (Botany Department, University of Queensland). We are indebted to Peter. He put much time into planning our outing. Things such as, permits to enter the park and a list of ferns to be found in the area (one for each of us), aren't just pulled out of a hat.

Along the track in, *Doodia aspera* was common, also many fine clumps of *Lastreopsis marginans* and *L. microsora* grew side by side. Along the creek we were delighted by the sight of colonies of *Microsorium scandens*, *Arthropteris beckleri* and *A. tenella* covering the trunks of tall palms and tree ferns. *Cyathea australis*, *C. cooperi* and *C. leichhardtiana* are all common in the area.

On the bank slopes we sighted *Blechnum cartilagineum* and *B. patersonii*, *Christella dentata*, *Culcita dubia*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Diplazium assimile*, *Drynaria rigidula*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Pellaea falcata* var. *nana* and *Pyrrosia confluens*, while *Asplenium australasicum* and *Platycterium bifurcatum* decked the tree tops.

Peter had promised we would see *Lastreopsis smithiana*. We did. They were growing luxuriantly, the glossy fronds arching posy fashion from a tufted rhizome, almost trunklike. He did not, however, prepare us for sightings of *Macroglena caudata*, the jungle bristle fern. It left us wondering how such a delicate wisp, could earn the name of bristle fern, or why it chooses only two select tree ferns as its' host.

Had the rocks been less slippery we would have ventured further down the creek to see *Pellaea paradoxa* and probably *Vittaria elongata*. Instead we contented ourselves by admiring what must have been the largest ever *Asplenium polyodon*. There it sat halfway up an old eucalypt, waving fronds, well over a metre long, at us.

The climb back, tested both wind and limb. Dodging unseasonable May showers we made our way back to Joyce Wards' gazebo and ate a belated lunch.

RED CARPET.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:-

The ferns selected for the September newsletter are from the Family *Lygodiaceae* Genus *Lygodium*.

Can any member assist with sterile and fertile frond pressings suitable for reproduction, Please?

SPORE BANK.

The following additions should be made to the spore list of the March issue of the newsletter.

Cyathea robertsiana	Arachniodes aristata variegated
Todea barbara	Blechnum penna-marina
Acrostichum speciosum	Cyathea cooperi
Pteridoblechnum neglectum	Macrothelypteris polypodioides
Blechnum wattii	Lastreopsis munita
Adiantum formosum	

DID YOU KNOW

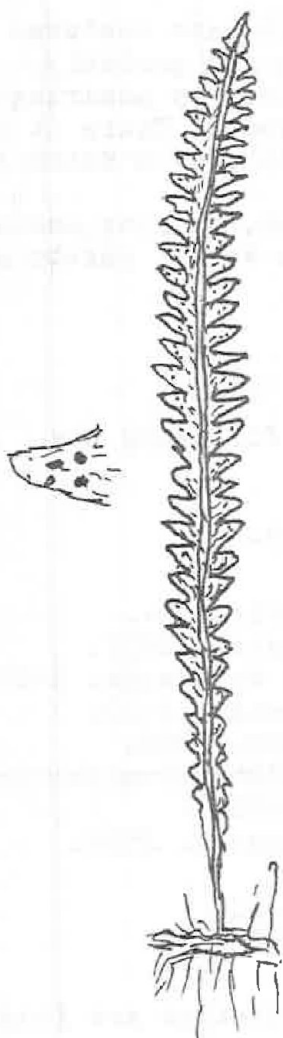
To let more air into the roots of ferns, planted in plastic pots, cut slits in the sides with a heated knife.



Plastic Pot.

FOUND.

This little treasure was found growing in North Queensland. Can you identify it?



Actual size.

Phyll Brown

(Mrs) Phyll Brown,
Leader,
Fern Study Group. S.G.A.P.