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S.G.A.P. Fern Study Group

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Dear Members,

I hope members everywhere enjoyed the holiday season which passed so quickly and I didn't write all the letters I had planned. I apologise to those whose letters I have not answered.

Our membership has increased to about 300. I hope you all enjoy the newsletters and if possible come along to some of our meetings and meet other members.

I want to thank all the members who completed and returned the information sheets. The information has been collated and should provide some interesting segments for the book which Bill Payne advises is coming on very nicely.

The shade area extension at the Burrendong Arboretum has not been completed so the April trip has been cancelled. As soon as the canopy is completed we will go out there 'in force' to do the plantings.

One of our Sydney members, who had never seen the shade area at Burrendong Arboretum, until January of this year, rang to say how overwhelmed he was at the planning, hard work and effort that has been put into the area.

On 23rd February about 25 members visited the Joseph Banks Native Plants Garden at Kareela, a Sydney suburb. Peter Olde took the group on a conducted tour. We were invited to select an area where ferns could be planted and believe me it is a glorious setting so the group decided to purchase ferns for planting in two areas. The ferns purchased will be paid for by the local council. A date has been selected on which these ferns will be planted.

Any member, and I know there a quite a lot who cannot get to Burrendong, may like to spend some time at this area, in the future.

Irene Cullen has advised that South East Queensland is experiencing the hottest and driest summers for many years, so the excursions are out until good rain falls.

Irene has also advised their project this year is to locate the elusive *Adiantum whitei* and we wish them good luck in their search.

Phyll. Brown.

Christmas Party, 1985.

By Sylvia Garlick.

On Sunday, 15th December, 1985, our Christmas Party was held at the home of Phyll. and Viv. Brown. Their back garden is covered with shade cloth and guards a fantastic fern collection.

The weather was sunny and 36 fern study group members, some as far away as Canberra and Newcastle attended.

We spent several hours during the day wandering around, admiring and discussing the plants, jotting down names and we were able to buy ferns that had been set aside to build up our own collections.

There were Chrissy Presents for all, a cake decorated with Australian Wildflowers (and Fern Fronds) a delicious Christmas Pudding, wire baskets, gardening gloves, diaries, plants, cane baskets, watering cans and lots more.

A very surprised John Lee was guest of honour and was presented with a book in recognition of all the work he has done over the last eleven years as secretary of the group.

An amazing amount of food appeared at lunch time, which proved we do spend some time in the kitchen. It disappeared just as quickly, hungry work this fern studying. A great time was had by all. Our thanks to Phyll and Viv for allowing us to visit with them.

A Fern Walk - North Nowra.

The Native Beauty Nursery located at 11 Koloona Drive, Cambewarra, specialising in unusual native plants, is being developed by Ross and Isobel Prindable, who are members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants.

Access is from the Princes Highway at North Nowra (159 km south of Sydney) or from the Kangaroo Valley- Nowra Road.

The nursery is set in 20 acres of natural bushland with many unusual rock formations and a small area of rainforest.

Ross and Isobel will show any interested persons or small groups over the area where walks have been prepared. The nursery is open by appointment only telephone (044) 216646.

In January a small group visited the area.

The first walk was reasonably level and took about 1½ hours the start of the walk was across some open grass country where, growing in full sun, were stands of *Pellaea falcata*, *Doodia aspera* and *Pteridium esculentum*. Further along the path, in more sheltered areas amongst large boulders were *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Culcita dubia* and, on the rocks, *Davallia pyxidata*.

Up amongst the boulders, in a damper situation, were *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *Adiantum formosum* and an unknown *Adiantum* species which appears to be a hybrid. There was no spore available but Ross and Isobel will be watching the few plants with a view to getting a good specimen for future identification.

Large specimens of *Asplenium australasicum*, *Platynerium bifurcation*, *Microsorium scandens* and *Pyrrosia rupestris* grew on trees and rocks. In a wet location *Arthropteris tenella* was found growing on trees and rocks. A search failed to find any *Arthropteris beckleri*.

Although this is a 35 inch rainfall area, the *Pyrrosia*, mosses and small plants on exposed rocks had withered and appeared dead, due to the lack of good rainfall.

The second walk took about 2 hours. This was steeper and up into the rainforest section. The only additional ferns recorded were *Pteris tremula*, *Asplenium flabellifolium* and *Cyathea australis*.

The feature of this walk was the climb around and between huge boulders and along a sheer rock face undermined at the bottom by huge caves.

The rockface was almost entirely covered by huge clumps of *Dendrobium speciosum*, *Dendrobium striolatum*, *Liparis reflexa* and small patches of *Bulbophyllum* possibly *crassulifolium*.

At the top of this mountain and still within the boundary of the nursery is about 5 acres of flat heathland which is a mass of flowering plants in the springtime.

All in the party were amazed at the apparent large amount of scenic beauty which can be crammed into 20 acres of mountain. This is an area well worth a visit by anyone interested in native plants. There is a kiosk where tea, coffee, cold drinks and biscuits are available.

Spore Bank.

Spore is available free of charge to members. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope with the request for spore.

N Adiantum species (S. E. Queensland)	N Dicksonia antartica
N Adiantum silvaticum	N Dicksonia youngiae
N Acrostichum speciosum	N Diplazium assimile
N Alantodea australis	N Doodia aspera
N Amphineuron opulentum	N Doryopteris lepidota
N Arachniodes aristata variegated	N Drynaria rigidula
N Arthropteris tenella	N Lastreopsis decomposita
N Asplenium australasicum	N Lastreopsis marginans
N Asplenium polyodon	N Marattia salicina
N Belvisia mucronata	N Microlepia speluncae
N Blechnum camfieldii	N Microsorium diversifolium
N Blechnum orientale	N Microsorium punctatum
N Blechnum fluviale	N Microsorium scandens
N Blechnum patersonii	N Microsorium superficiale
N Blechnum wattsii	N Ophioglossum pendulum
N Blechnum whelanii	N Pellaea rotundifolia
N Cheilanthes argenta	N Platycerium superbum
N Cyathea australis	N Polypodium amcinense
N Cyathea cooperii (rusty red)	N Polystichum australiense
N Cyathea cooperii (robust firm)	N Polystichum formosum
N Cyathea cunninghamii	N Polystichum proliferum
N Cyathea brownii	N Pronephrium asperum
N Cyathea leichhardtiana	N Psilotum nudum
N Cyathea rebecca	N Pteridoblechnum neglectum
N Cyathea woolsiana	N Pteris ensiformis
N Christella dentata	N Pteris tremula
N Davallia pyxidata	N Pteris umbrosa
	N Rumohra adiantiformis
	N Selliqua feeii
	N Sticherus flabellatus
	N Tectaria muelleri

N indicates Australian Native.

Programme - South East Queensland Members.

Irene Cullen has advised the following outings:-

April 6th at 9.30am.

Meet at Cliff Richies' residence 85 Lang Street, Sunny Bank Hills - Study Adiantums - Leader P. Bostock.

June 1st at 9.30 am.

Meet Helen Moriartys' nursery, Alex Road, Mt. Glorious. Leader H. Moriarty. Study Aspleniums.

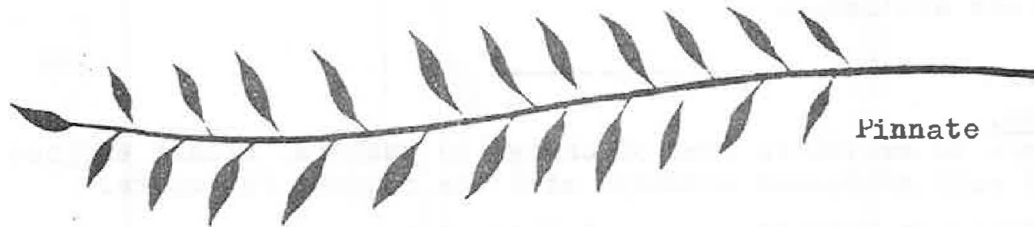
REMINDER

Subscriptions for 1986 are now due. If you have already renewed your subscription please disregard this reminder.

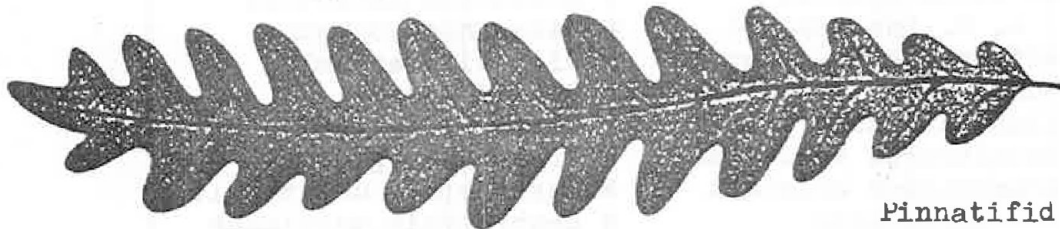
If your subscriptions have not been received by the end of May 1986 we will assume you no longer wish to remain a member of the Fern Study Group.

Examples of some common types of fronds.

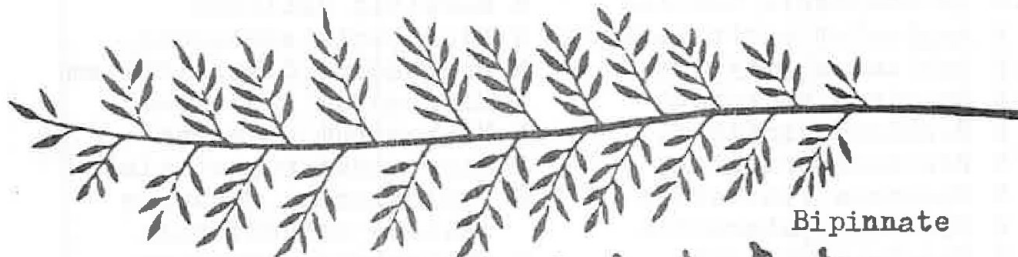
The line drawings were reprinted from the newsletter published by the South Australian Fern Society.



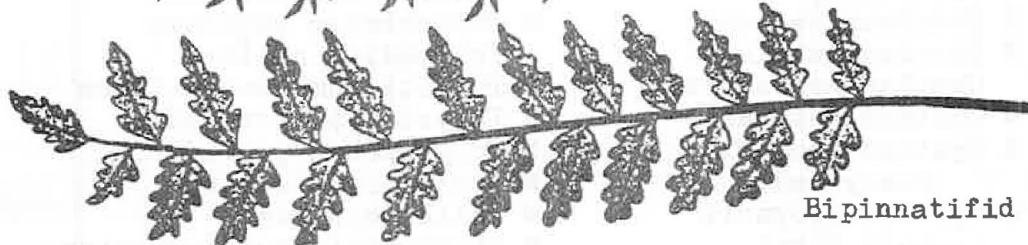
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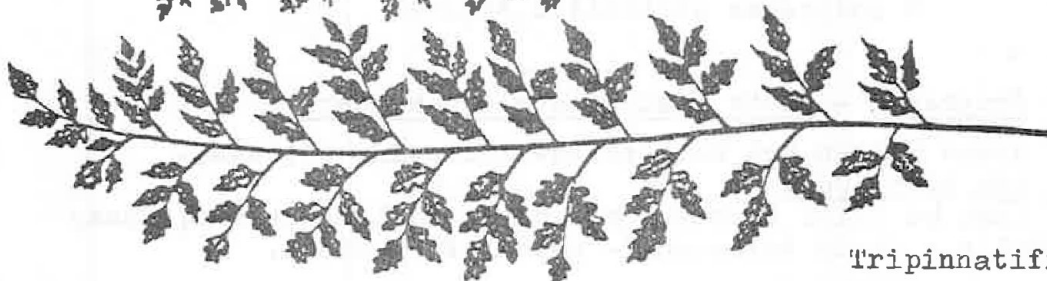
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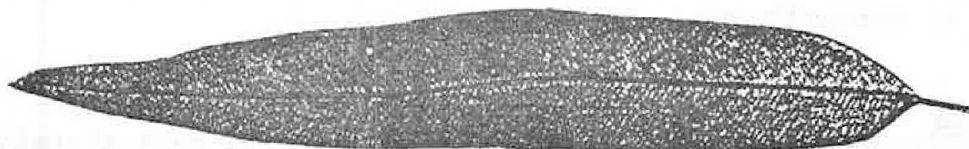
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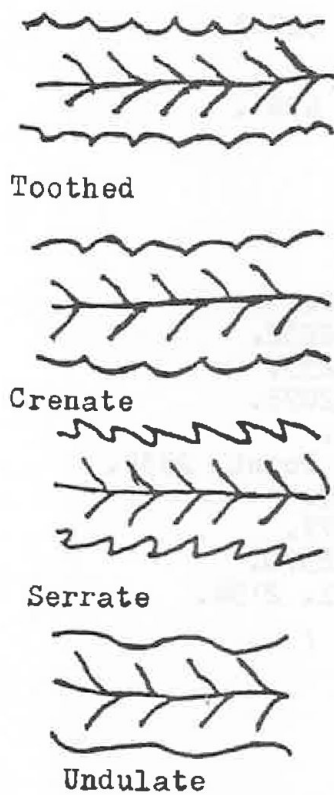
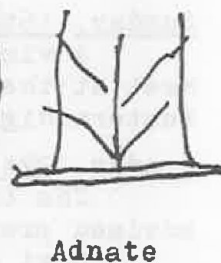
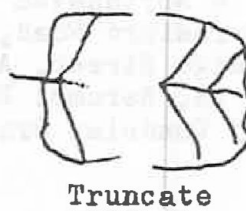
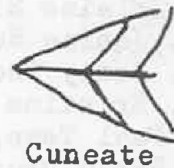
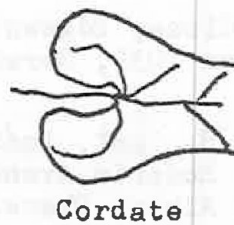
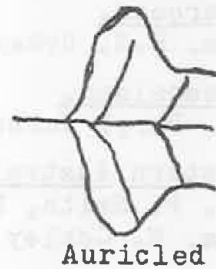
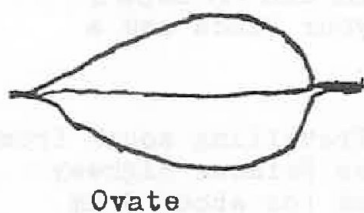
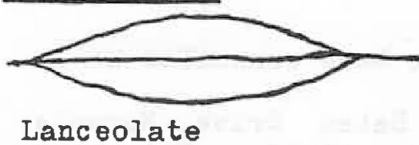
Tripinnate



Tripinnatifid



Simple

Pinnule MarginsShapes of Pinnule apex and baseFrond ShapesRhizomes

Red Carpet.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the following new members;

Programme.

Sunday, 16th March, 1986.

A visit to Adelina and Federal Falls, Blue Mountains. Meet at the Memorial on the left hand side of the Great Western Highway at Lawson. Time 10.00am.

Sunday, 27th April, 1986.

The trip to Burrendong Arboretum has been cancelled as advised previously in this newsletter.

Meet at Joseph Banks Native Garden, Bates Drive, Kareela. The entrance is off Manooka Place. The time 10.00am. This is a 'working bee' to landscape an area and plant ferns.

Please bring your lunch and morning and afternoon teas.

Sunday, 18th May, 1986.

Meet at 10.00am, at the home of Phyllis and Viv Brown 254 EDGAR ST. CONDELL PARK. Please bring your lunch and a 'plate' for afternoon tea.

Sunday, 15th June, 1986.

A visit to Scouts Camp, Mt. Keira. Travelling south from Sydney on either the Southern Freeway or the Princes Highway take the Mount Ousley Road. Follow this road for about 9 km turn left into Mount Keira Road, travel for about 4km. The turn off to the Scouts Camp is a very sharp turn to the right about 1 km past the Queen Elizabeth Drive.

The time of the meeting has been set for 10.00am.

Please make your own catering arrangements.

Sunday, 27th July, 1986.

This outing is to the home of Peter and Margaret Olde, 138 Fowler Road, Illawong. Morning tea will be at 10.00am. Please bring your lunch and a 'plate' for afternoon tea.

Sunday, 17th August, 1986.

This meeting will be at the home of Ray and Marie Best, 15 Orana Road Kenthurst, at 10.00am. Please bring your lunch and a 'plate' for afternoon tea.

For any further information regarding these outings please contact Phyllis Brown telephone number (02) 7056413.

Visit to Mt Wilson.

On Sunday 24th. November, members of the Group met at the Fruit Bowl, Bilpin on the Bell Line of Road. After the inevitable tea break, the convoy of vehicles moved on to Mount Wilson. The meeting place was a picnic area at the end of Queens Avenue.

The walk selected followed a well defined circular path although a little steep at both ends did not pose any problems for the older members of the group.

Adiantum aethiopicum was noticed growing close to where the path left the picnic area. Where the track descended towards the creek, large colonies of *Polystichum proliferum* grew in ground, *Asplenium flabellifolium* in the crevices of rocks and *Pyrrosia rupestris* grew on some of the trees.

Down at the creek there were a lot of very tall *Dicksonia antarctica* and *Cyathea australis* and very large *Todea barbara*.

At a place where the creek water tumbled down over some huge rocks there were small plants of *Asplenium bulbiferum* and high in a slender tree clinging to the trunk were small clumps of *Asplenium flaccidum*.

In a grotto small *Leptopteris frazeri* grew on a very wet rock wall. A fine specimen of *Leptopteris frazeri* with a short trunk and long drooping fronds was seen growing under a high ledge in a very damp and dark situation. In the same location growing at the bases of large boulders, were many plants of *Asplenium bulbiferum*. On trees and rocks the two species of the genus, *Microsorium*, *scandens* and *diversifolium* were growing together.

Along the path were large colonies of *Blechnum patersonii* growing in an open situation on a well drained slope. Usually these ferns are found in denser shade, under waterfalls or in very wet situations.

The ground ferns, *Pellaea falcata*, *Pellaea falcata* var. *nana*, *Lastreopteris decomposita* and *microsora* were in abundance.

On the outward journey away from the creek were massive colonies of *Microsorium diversifolium*, *Blechnum cartilagineum* and *Doodia aspera*.

On the wet, protected side of some rocks were *Grammitis* possibly *billardieri*, which appears to be the only species recorded from this area.

Other ferns in small numbers were *Dennstaedtia davallioides*, *Diplazium assimile* and *Pteridium esculentum*.

At the point where the track again reached the picnic area there was a huge colony of *Blechnum nudum* with masses of new pale green fronds.

After lunch, the party drove to the Cathedral of Ferns. This place was disappointing. Prolonged drought has played havoc with the plants of the area, which were once lush and green and the once damp logs were covered with filmy ferns, mosses and small orchids.

The following is an extract from the March 1986 'Bulletin' published by the Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

PLEASE HELP.

The S.G.A.P. Fern Study Group is seeking help to locate a specimen of *ADIANTUM WHITEI*. In the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants it is described as 'a handsome fern restricted to the environs of Brisbane suburbs and hardly known at all in cultivation.' (Collections were recorded from Kenmore July 1914.)

It is generally considered to be a natural occurring hybrid between *Adiantum hispidulum*- the rough or five-fingered maiden hair and *Adiantum formosum*, the black stem or giant maiden hair. Should you notice a local fern that could come into this category, please contact Irene Cullen on phone 341 4272.

The following botanical description is reproduced from "Contributions to the Flora of Queensland" by F. Manson Bailey C.M.G. F.L.S., Colonial Botanist, July 1915:-

ADIANTUM, Lim.

Adiantum whitei, Bail., n.sp. (plate 5) Rhizome creeping. Stipes and rachis hispid. Fronds $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high, mostly bipinnate but slightly tripinnate at the base. Primary pinnae numerous, always simply pinnate at the end.

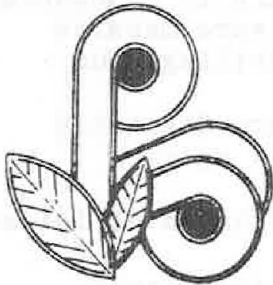
Pinnules numerous, usually small, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, the under surface with a few scattered hairs or bristles. Sori not very abundant. Indusia orbicular or somewhat reniform.

Habitat: Kenmore, J.E. Young and C.T. White, July 1914: C.T. White, May 1915.

In its hispid nature this new species approaches *Adiantum hispidulum*, Swartz. It is well worthy of garden culture.

Phyll Brown.

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



Fiddlehead Greens

What is a Fiddlehead

Fiddleheads are greens, the name being derived from their resemblance to the fiddle. They are the early growth of the Ostrich Fern which is found in abundance along many North American rivers, being harvested mainly in New Brunswick and Eastern Quebec. Fiddleheads are completely organic, growing wild, with no additives or artificial fertilizers helping Mother Nature.

It is only in early Spring when the fronds poke through the earth, that the fiddleheads can be picked, for they very quickly uncurl and grow into tall graceful ferns.

They are considered a delicacy and a gourmet's delight, when served as a side dish with meat or fish.