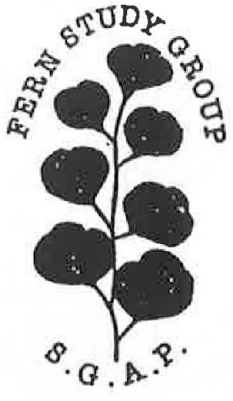


Leason

ASSOCIATION of

S. G. A. P. Fern Study Group



Newsletter Number 97

ISSN 0811-5311

DATE - JUNE, 2002

LEADER Peter Hind, 41 Miller Street, Mount Druitt. N. S. W. 2770

SECRETARY:

TREASURER: Ron Wilkins, 188b Beecroft Rd., Cheltenham NSW 2119
E-mail: ron_wilkins@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Mike Healy, 272 Humffray St. Nth., Ballarat. Vic. 3350
E-mail address: jmhealy@tinetconnect.com.au

SPORE BANK: Barry White, 24 Ruby Street, West Essendon. Vic. 3040

PLEASE NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR TREASURER & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Please ensure future e-mail is directed to these addresses. Also anything sent after the 11th May has not be received.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGES MEMBER'S SUPPORT TO FERN STUDY GROUP

The following correspondence was received from Peter Hind for inclusion in the newsletter.

21/02/ 2002

Dr. Calder Chaffey
'Red Fox", 13 Acacia St.,
Wollongbar, NSW 2477

Dear Dr Chaffey,

At the last meeting of the Sydney ASGAP Fern Study Group it was unanimously agreed that you should be given Life Membership of the Fern Study Group. We feel sure that other regional groups and individual members of the Fern Study Group would enthusiastically support the decision. This is firstly in recognition of your major work on growing Australian ferns and the publication of your book "Australian Ferns. Growing Them Successfully". It's a volume that gives many members pride to have been associated with in some small way. Secondly, your financial contributions to the Group by way of a share of the royalties from the book, have put the finances of the Group in a very sound position thus ensuring that the Group will be viable well into the future.

We hope you will accept this small token of our appreciation of your important contribution to the study of Australian ferns.

Yours truly,

Peter Hind
Group Leader

Dr Calder H CHAFFEY

RED FOX, 13 ACACIA St., WOLLONGBAR 2477
PHONE & Fax: 02 6628 1553
Mobile 04 0904 2101



11.3.02

Peter Hind,
SGAP Fern Study Group.

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter offering me Life Membership of the ASGAP Fern Study Group. In accepting this I feel truly honoured and shall endeavour to continue to support the Group.

Thank you also for the kind remark about my book "Australian Ferns-Growing Them Successfully". I would like to say again that it was made possible by the helpful information I got from members of the Group.

My next book is at present being published by the Southern Cross University, Lismore. It is "A Field Guide to Australian Ferns" Volume I, covering all the ferns south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Volume II is following with all the ferns north of the tropic. I shall send a copy to the group when published.

Thank you again for the honour you have bestowed upon me.

Yours sincerely,

Calder

HOW TO DETERMINE "UP" WHEN MOUNTING A PLATYCERIUM

Contributed by Keith Rogers

Keith has kindly answered the request from Irene Curren printed in the Sept. & December Newsletters re. Positioning of young elks. How I determine "Up" when mounting a Platycerium on a board or plaque.

It is necessary to mount the correct direction as if grown upside down, they will inevitably die or be set back dramatically.

To understand better the structure of a platycerium, the rhizome grows outwards and upwards in a side on view, of a mature fern.

The shield fronds emerge from the lower side of the rhizome in a J fashion at perhaps say 4 -5 and or 7 - 8 O'clock and curve upwards and around or in the true (eventually the fertile) out and upwards.

Look face to face at the Platycerium bud, rotate it till you can see where the fronds emerge from on the rhizome in that somewhat J like fashion from the lower sides.

With the shield fronds, the smaller part of the shield is the bottom curve and the larger is at the top. Each about 220 degree per side. The upper flows further across than the lower.


From this I hope you may get a better idea where UP is.

In some of the species, the shield above the rhizome extends a small additional flap to almost cover the rhizome, this presumably is to protect it from either rain or sun.

What I find is that I mount the Platy earlier on a small board and after, locate UP and then mount the Platy on larger board permanently later in its correct orientation.



Editor's Note: Keith was featured on Gardening Australia in March in a treefern segment with Malcolm Campbell. It was a very good interview so hopefully everyone got to see another of our group show the rest of Australia how beautiful ferns are and how, with a little thought, they can be grown anywhere.

 Keith's Fern Page on the Internet is well worth a visit. It supports the Fern Society of SA. It covers an extensive range of fern related topics – some in great detail - and has other useful links. Just go to www.lm.net.au/~kerogers/

PRESENTATION/REHABILITATION OF PLATYCERIUMS

Contributed by Geoff Simmons

Whether grown poorly or well, staghorns eventually have tremendous bulk formed by old leaves and roots. The growing point is at the centre externally so this is a focus for attention. Additional factors that may require attention include the extent of insect attack and fungi. These necrotic areas can be quite visible and unsightly on the external surface.

To bring such plants back to a more attractive size and appearance I have removed them from their backing material and used a knife to cut away most of the dead material before replacing the plant onto the board. They seem to survive quite drastic treatment.

Elkhorns are normally readily divided if desired to obtain more plants. *P. bifurcatum* v. *Hillii* have rather hard dry thick rounded lumps that may look better if reduced in size.

This note is written as I have wondered if any fern grower, uses a regular routine for reshaping platyceriums. As an extension to this perhaps someone has come across natural dwarf or unusual shapes or even tried to induce alteration with chemicals.

Finally the way a plant is presented for viewing offers scope for creative expression. In this case good growth is a basic factor but background and surrounds can also play a part just as an attractive container will enhance the beauty of a potted plant.

INTRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FERN SPECIES

Contributed by Geoff Simmons

As an arm of the Australian Plant Societies should the Fern Study Group be more concerned with the introduction of exotic ferns and the movement of Australian ferns within Australia ?

Examples of the above are the problems of a *Lygodium sp.* into the south of U.S.A. and *Cyathea cooperi* competing with the local tree ferns such as *Cibotium sp.* in the Hawaiian islands. Nearer to home, *Cy. cooperi* has found a niche in western Australia. [on a trip to W.A. last October I observed a *C. cooperi* at the entrance to Lake cave near Margaret River. Ed.] *Lygodium japonicum* now considered an exotic species is certainly a pest in my garden.

A problem with introduced species is that the mechanisms that limit their spread in the country where they are endemic, may not exist in the Australian environment so they can spread unchecked.

An important factor is the way the introduced plants multiply. Species that produce berries are easily spread by birds. Ferns have a most efficient dispersal system as tiny spores, often produced in huge numbers can be wind borne and find suitable pockets for growth. As this growth may take some time to be apparent, quite advanced plants may escape attention before they are removed.

While considerable discussion and heat is generated by the destruction of habitat for native fauna, plant habitats for Australian plants may be limited or destroyed by plants from other countries.

There is a case for the cultivation of exotic ferns, especially tree ferns, to be discouraged. Let us concentrate on the cultivation of Australian ferns.

REPORT ON SYDNEY MEETING OF MARCH 16TH, 2002.

Contributed by Joan Moore

Peter Hind reported that we have made Dr Calder Chaffey a life member of the Study Group.



Dr Chaffey tells us that he is about to publish another book which will be a field guide to Australian Ferns South of the Tropic of Capricorn. Volume 2. covering Ferns North of the Tropic, will follow. They are being published by Southern Cross University, Lismore. So this is something to look forward to!

PETER HIND DISCUSSED THE SO-CALLED LACY GROUND FERNS AT SYDNEY'S MARCH MEETING. Peter said Lacy ground ferns (ferns with creeping rhizomes and fronds more than twice pinnate). These are found in three families (as listed in Volume 49 of the Flora of Australia). i.e. in Dennstaedtiaceae - all genera. *Hypolepis*, *Dennstaedtia*, *Microlepis*, *Pteridium* and *Histiopteris*.

In Dryopteridaceae (formerly, called Aspidiaceae)-some genera. ie. Lastreopsis, Arachniodes, Polystichum; in Culcitaceae - *Calocholaena dubia* (formerly called *Culcita dubia*. Peter said that there is still a *Culcita dubia*, but it exists in countries to the north. The Australian fern is different so it had to have a new name.)

To distinguish these ferns one from another Peter says: to look first at the rhizomes: Hypolepis, Dennstaedtia, Microlepia and Pteridium have hairy rhizomes, and so does *Calochlaena dubia*, which even has two types of hairs: but *Histiopteris incisa*, called Bats-wing and the Dryopteridaceae genera have scales on their rhizomes.

Then look at the indusium. In the Dennstaedtiaceae the indusium is formed only by the reflexed pinnule lobe, there is no inner indusium. *Calochlaena dubia* has an inner indusium and an outer one formed by an extension of the leaf blade. The Dryopteridaceae genera that concern us here have indusia.

And at that point we ran out of time. I know that there are a few more points to consider, like the grooves on the rachises, maybe but this much has been of some help, I hope.

THE MID NORTH COAST GROUPS OUTING

Report on by Steve Clemesha

TO THE GIBRALTAR RANGE NATIONAL PARK ON 3-4 NOVEMBER 2001

On Saturday, 3rd after we all arrived and set up camp, we went for a walk through heathland. It was beautiful with many wildflowers in bloom. Among these were *Boronia sp*, *Goodenia sp*, *Prosthanthera sp*, *Hakea sp*, *Grevilleas* and many others.

Ferns on the walk were few. *Gleichenia dicarpa* and *Lindsaea linearis* were common and widespread. *Lycopodiella lateralis* was the only fern ally we saw on this walk, but not on the other. The remaining ferns grew in microclimates near granite boulders. They were ferns we saw in greater numbers in the rainforest the next day.

Our walk then was to the Needles. This granite rock formation originally were seven sisters who were turned to stone by a sorcerer, according to Aboriginal Dreamtime stories.

Part of the walk is through tall heathland under scattered Eucalypts. We saw only three flowers of the Gibraltar Range Waratah, *Telopea aspera*. This was because of the dry spring. This waratah differs from the Sydney species in a number of small points though its flowers look like it in general appearance.

Part of the walk is through warm (?) temperate rainforest. The walk to the Tree Fern Forest branches off this track and it is also mostly under rainforest. The fern numbers in and near the rainforest are high. An unexpected find was *Pyrrhosia confluens* on a rocky area near The Needles. It is unusual to find this fern at higher altitudes. The habitat was exposed and where it would get cold winds and rarely light snow but no frosts. The orchid, *Dendrobium kingianum* grew nearby. It is another plant that does not tolerate frosts.

A patch of *Gleichenia microphylla* grew beside the track. This species can easily be confused with unpouched pinnules of *G. dicarpa* when it is growing in the shade. *G. microphylla* has fewer darker scales on the secondary and tertiary rachises. In the plants we saw some fronds were fertile whereas *G. dicarpa* does not become fertile when growing where pinnules are flat.

Clumps of *Todea barbara* grew in and near the creek under rainforest. It grows better where it is on creek banks and getting more sun. It is a very ancient species occurring in New Zealand and South Africa as well as Australia. Its green spores are short lived and could not be wind blown to New Zealand and remain viable, let alone South Africa. Its origin goes back to before the break up of the ancient supercontinent we now call Gondwanaland. Quite a few primitive ferns favour wet places in the sun because most of the world was like this in and before the times of the dinosaurs. *Gleichenia*, *Lygodium* and the non-Australian *Osmunda* species all grow in sunny, wet places. *Todea barbara* originally was described as *Osmunda barbara* and, like them, it produces green short-lived spores from globular receptacles. The name *barbara* means foreign and its name meant it was an *Osmunda* in a foreign part of the world. After a time it was given its present name.

The genus *Leptopteris* is related to this group. Its spores are also green and short lived and produced in globular receptacles. *Leptopteris* is found in Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and Lord Howe Island. Unlike the rest of the *Osmunda* family, they grow under shady moist conditions and can never stand the strong sunlight.

An NPWS pamphlet challenged people to spot four species of tree fern in the area. *Dicksonia antarctica*, *Cyathea australis* and *C. leichhardtiana* were common. We only saw about four *C. cooperi*. They were under rainforest. Tree ferns often colonise road and track banks. Reminders of logging in the area slowly are fading. Without some disturbance through storms, *C. cooperi* may die out in the area.

We were puzzled by clumps of dead plants we could not identify and we saw no live ones until we came to a wet, fairly open area. They were a large swamp *Lomandra*. Apparently they grew all along the road after logging and now are dying out because of extra shading. Some changes caused by logging take many decades to fully recover.

*****FERNS OBSERVED ON THE GIBRALTAR RANGE EXCURSION*****

1. Dandarha Circuit, Surveyors Trail, Mulligans Camp Site. 2. Needles/Treefern Forest

<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>				<i>Grammitis billardieri</i>			
<i>Adiantum diaphanum</i>				<i>Grammitis stenophylla</i>			
<i>Adiantum formosum</i>		2		<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>		2	
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>				<i>Hymenophyllum bivalve</i>			
<i>Adiantum silvaticum</i>				<i>Hymenophyllum cupressiforme</i>			
<i>Arachniodes aristata</i>				<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>			
<i>Arthropteris beckleri</i>		2		<i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i>		2	
<i>Athropteris tenella</i>		2		<i>Hypolepis muelleri</i>		2	
<i>Asplenium attenuatum</i>				<i>Lastreopsis acuminata</i>		2	
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>		2		<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i>		2	
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>				<i>Lastreopsis marginans</i>			
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>		2		<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i>		2	
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>				<i>Lastreopsis munita</i>			
<i>Asplenium obtusatum</i>				<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>		1	2
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>		2		<i>Lindsaea microphylla</i>			
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>				<i>Lunathyrium petersenii</i>		2	
<i>Azolla pinnata</i>				<i>Lycopodium sp.</i>		1	
<i>Blechnum camfieldii</i>				<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>			
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>		1	2	<i>Macroglena caudata</i>			
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>				<i>Microsorium diversifolium</i>			
<i>Blechnum indicum</i>				<i>Microsorium scandens</i>		2	
<i>Blechnum minus</i>		1	2	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>			
<i>Blechnum nudum</i>			2	<i>Ophioglossum pendulum</i>			
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i>			2	<i>Pellaea falcata</i>		2	
<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i>				<i>Pellaea paradoxa</i>			
<i>Blechnum wattsi</i>			2	<i>Pityrogramma austroamericana</i>			
<i>Botrychium australe</i>				<i>Platycterium bifurcatum</i>		1	2
<i>Calochlaena dubia (Culcita)</i>		1	2	<i>Platycterium superbum</i>			
<i>Cheilanthes distans</i>				<i>Polyphlebium venosum</i>			
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>				<i>Polystichum australiense</i>			
<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i>				<i>Polystichum formosum</i>			
<i>Christella dentata</i>				<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>			
<i>Cyathea australis</i>		2		<i>Psilotum nudum</i>			
<i>Cyathea cooperi</i>		2		<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>		1	2
<i>Cyathea leichhardtiana</i>		2		<i>Pteris tremula</i>		2	
<i>Cyclosorus interruptus</i>				<i>Pteris umbrosa</i>			
<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>				<i>Pteris vittata</i>			
<i>Davallia pyxidata</i>		1	2	<i>Pyrrosia confluens</i>		2	
<i>Dennstaedtia davallioides</i>			2	<i>Pyrrosia rupestris</i>		1	2
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>		2		<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>			
<i>Dictymia brownii</i>		2		<i>Salvinia molesta</i>			
<i>Diplazium assimile</i>				<i>Schizaea bifida</i>			
<i>Diplazium australe</i>		2		<i>Schizaea rupestris</i>			
<i>Diplazium dilatatum</i>		2		<i>Sticherus flabellatus</i>		1	2
<i>Doodia aspera</i>		2		<i>Sticherus lobatus</i>		2	
<i>Doodia caudata</i>				<i>Sticherus tener</i>			
<i>Doodia squarrosa (X)</i>				<i>Tmesipteris sp.</i>			
<i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>		1	2	<i>Todea barbara</i>		2	
<i>Gleichenia microphylla</i>		2		<i>Vittaria elongata</i>			
<i>Gleichenia rupestris</i>				<i>Lycopodiella latealis</i>		1	

FORTH COMING EVENTS
PROGRAMME FOR SYDNEY MEETINGS 2002 JUNE TO AUGUST.

June 15, Saturday: - No Excursion

July 20, Saturday: We will meet at Rose Bach's new home: 4 Woodville St., Glenbrook 2773 (Lower Blue Mountains). We are all most interested to see how Rose goes about converting this new garden into a fern garden. Rose's phone : 02 4739 0129.

August 17, Saturday: Meeting at Joan Moore's home: 2 Gannet Rt., Gladesville; phone 9817 5487.
Topic for discussion is Lastreopsis.

PROGRAMME FOR STH EAST QLD GROUP - JULY TO AUGUST.

Sunday 7th July - Meet 9.30a.m. at Jollies Lookout - Mt Nebo Road - for Excursion to Boombana Nat. Park and other areas..

Sun 4th August - Meet 9.30a.m. at Graham Nosworthy's home 609 Grandview Road Pullenvale for study of Pellaea's and discussion of Fern Display at the Annual Flower Show.

Sept 13-14-15th Annual Flower Show, Meet Friday 1 p.m. at the Mt Gravatt Show Grounds to set up Fern Display. People needed on Roster on Saturday and Sunday

SPORE BANK

ORDERING SPORE: Spore is available free of charge from Barry White, 24 Ruby St., West Essendon. Vic. 3040

When ordering please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

CURRENT SPORE LIST

Contributed by Barry White

Acrostichum speciosum 12/01	Diplazium australe 6/00	Platyterium bifurc. cv. Hilo /99
Arachniodes aristata 5/00	Doodia aspera 1/02	Platyterium bifurc.
Asplenium australasicum 2/02	Doodia australis 12/99	cv.HulaHands /99
Asplenium milnei 1/02	Histiopteris incisa 5/02	Platyterium bifurc. Mt. Lewis
Asplenium surrogatum 1/02	Hypolepis glandulifera 1/02	9/01
Blechnum articulatum 1/02	Hypolepis rugosula 5/02	Platyterium bif. ssp. veitchii
Blechnum camfieldii 5/00	Lastreopsis acuminata 4/02	9/01
Blechnum cartilagineum 2/02	Lastreopsis decomposita 12/00	Platyterium bif. cv Willinckii
Blechnum chambersii 2/99	Lastreopsis hispida 2/00	Scofield /99
Blechnum fluviatile 2/00	Lastreopsis microsora 12/00	Platyterium hillii /99
Blechnum minus 6/99	Lastreopsis rufescens 12/00	Platyterium superbum 10/01
Blechnum patersonii 8/99	Lastreopsis tenera 12/00	Platyterium superbum (Cairns)
Blechnum wattsi 5/02	Macrothelypteris polypodioides	/99
Cyathea celebica 3/99	4/01	Polystichum australiense 12/99
Cyathea cooperi 5/02	Microsorium pustulatum 1/02	Polystichum fallax 4/02
Cyathea cooperi var. cinnamonia	Ophioglossum pendulum 2/00	Polystichum formosum 6/99
/99	Pellaea falcata 11/01	Pronephrum asperum 3/99
Cyathea leichhardtiana 11/00	Platyterium bif. cv German	Psilotum nudum 8/99
Cyclosorus interruptus 3/99	Hybrid 9/01	Pteris comans 10/00
Cystopteris filix-fragilis /00	Platyterium bifurc. cv Lemoinei	Pteris tremula 2/01
Deparia petersenii 6/00	9/01	Pteris umbrosa 1/02
Dicksonia antarctica 5/02	Platyterium bifurc. cv Roberts	Pteris vittata 4/02
Dicksonia youngiae 1/99	9/01	Sticherus urceolatus 5/02

Thanks to spore donors Lorraine Deppeler, Ron Wilkins and Rose Bach.

were recorded. The area was a scene reminiscent of a hoar frost. Another stop just before Boona enabled us to have a cup of tea and say Farewell before the Group went their various ways home.

FERNS SIGHTED ON KILLARNEY DISTRICT (S.E. QLD.) EXCURSION MAY 4,5,6,

BROWNS FALLS = **B**; QUEEN MARY FALLS = **Q**; KOOREELAH NAT. PARK = **K**
MOSS GARDENS = **M**

Plant				
Adiantum atroviride	Q	B		
Adiantum diaphanum	Q	B		
Adiantum formosum		B	K	
Adiantum hispidulum	Q		K	M
Arthropteris tenella	Q	B		M
Asplenium australasicum	Q	B	K	M
Asplenium polyodon			K	M
Asplenium flabellifolium	Q			
Blechnum cartilagineum	Q	B		
Blechnum minus				
Blechnum patersonii var patersonii	Q			
Calochlaena dubia	Q		K	
Chellanthus distans	Q			
Cheilanthes tenuifolia		B		
Christella dentata	Q			
Davallia pyxidata		B	K	M
Dennstaedtia davallioides	Q			
Deparia petersenii	Q			
Dicksonia antarctica	Q	B	K	
Dictymia brownii	Q		K	M
Diplazium assimile	Q	B		
Diplazium australe			K	
Doodia australis	Q			
Doodia aspera	Q		K	
Doodia caudata	Q		K	
Doodia maxima	Q	B		
Hypolepsis glandulifera		B	K	
Hypolepsis muelleri	Q			
Lastreopsis decomposita		B	K	M
Lastreopsis microsora		B	K	
Lastreopsis munita	Q			
Lastreopsis smithiana	Q			
Mocrosorum scandens	Q		K	
Pellaea falcata	Q	B		
Pellaea nana	Q	B		M
Pellaea paradoxa	Q			
Platynerium bifurcatum	Q			
Platynerium superbum	Q			
Polystichum australiense	Q			M

Polystichum fallax	Q			
Pteridium esculentum	Q	B	K	
Pteris tremula	Q	B	K	
Pteris umbrosa	Q	B		
Pyrrosa confluens	Q	B	K	M
Pyrrosa rupestris	Q		K	M
Vittaria sp.				

BLECHNUM
CARTILEGINIUM



NOTES FROM STH EAST QLD.

The dry weather continues in South East Queensland and prospects of early relief rain are looking bad. As water courses and Dams dry up the future of our native ferns is grim. However it is pleasing to see that our members are becoming more involved in trying to propagate the rarer species by spore.

This was very evident when we met at Claire Shackel's home for our April meeting - "More on Fern Propagation". Claire has one Fernery solely for this purpose. Her method of propagation described in a Newsletter last year is showing good results. In fact she had lots of tubes of fern ready for sale. These included *Thelypteris confluens*, the spore of which she collected on our trip to Moreton Island only last May. Others ready to leave the nursery were *Adiantum hispidum* var. *hypoglaucum* and *Pteris nudum* also about six other species. Nev. Deeth's *Platycerium*s were also showing progress. As we are getting no feedback from other members it is trial and error. He is noticing that *P. superbum* will gradually right its self if hung the wrong way up. But it seems from other members experience that *P. bifidum* will not

KILLARNEY DISTRICT - 3 DAY EXCURSION BY MEMBERS OF THE STH EAST QLD. GROUP

Although only nine members were able to attend the long weekend Excursion to the Killarney District - May 4,5,6 - those who were able to go had a most enjoyable and rewarding time. This was made more so by members of the S.G.A.P. Qld Warwick Branch who met us both on the Saturday and Sunday and joined our walks, giving -us lots of local information.

Day 1. On Saturday at Midday we met the first group and had a picnic lunch with them in the grounds of our Motel. They conducted us to our first walk - Brown's Falls. To get to these Falls we had to walk along the banks of a small Creek and rock hop from side to side to get a closer look at ferns growing along its banks before coming to the Falls. After identifying twenty three species of ferns, the party arrived back at the cars for a late afternoon tea. There were several wet shoes and also one quite wet bottom. The ferns identified will appear at the end of this report.

Day 2 - Queen Mary's Falls were first on the agenda. We were accompanied by another couple from the Warwick Group. This walk had the largest number of Fern species of the areas visited during the weekend. Thirty nine in all. The walk alone was well worth taking. The walking track was well graded. By starting at the cliff face end of the walk, we were able to walk down the long flight of stairs that led to the bottom of the falls. At the same time wondering at the dozens of large *Platycerium superbum* that seemed to cling so precariously to the rock walls, while along the track doodia and adiantums were plentiful.

As we got closer to the creek, the variety of ferns became more numerous, while around the falls themselves, they were prolific - with *Dicksonia antarctica*; *Diplazium australe*; *Hypolepsis glandulifera* and a score of others. Great attention was paid to the damp mossy rocks in the hope of finding filmy ferns. No one found any. The graded walk back to the top among the tall eucalypts was very pleasant. After lunch we journeyed to Acacia Plateau and on to the Koreelah National Park. At first it did not seem likely we'd see many ferns among the weed and grassy slopes of the road verge but in all twenty species were recorded. All who pressed on to the lookout said they had an excellent view of Mt. Barney and other points of interest through the trees

Day 3. All packed and ready for home.... It was decided to re-visit Queen Mary's Falls. One of our party had not been able to be with us the previous day. As this member had been anxious to do the trip, we all felt another walk around the circuit could be beneficial for all, as some species did warrant closer observation. All happily agreed.

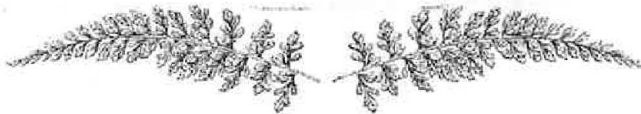
Naturally being on the border range we were seeing ferns not usually seen closer to Brisbane. Our sole N.S.W visitor was a great help. Many thanks Calder - we are looking forward to seeing your next publication - "Identification of Ferns South of the Tropic of Capricorn". After lunch we continued our way home via Booth. On the way we stopped at two lookouts. The brilliant green of the country side was a sharp contrast to the one we were to encounter nearer home. Further on was The Moss Gardens. This was merely a walk along the Border Fence. All trees and rocks were covered in lichens and moss. Twelve ferns

Spore Donations – Spore donations are not only welcome, they are essential for the proper functioning of the spore bank.

All types of spore are welcome including fresher samples of ones already on the list. There is no necessity to separate the sporangia from the spore. The whole, or part, frond may also be sent in, all is acceptable. Please include date of collection and, if collected in the bush, the area. In the list, the month and year of collection is shown. The letter B indicates collected in the bush. The area of collection is available on request.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT – Thanks to those who sent articles this quarter. However, I would still like to appeal to individuals or groups to send articles, questions on their favourite plant, an interesting spot they may have visited, a tip on how to grow, or propagate plants, or problems you might be experiencing with growing. Questions have generated a deal of interest in the past.

DEADLINE FOR COPY: Closing date for material to be included in the SEPTEMBER 2002 Newsletter is AUGUST 15th, 2002. Your Contributions are valuable.



If undeliverable return to:
272 Humffray St. Nth.,

SURFACE MAIL

BALLARAT. Vic, 3350

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

Print Post Approved
P8P245358/OOO18

Mrs. J Sked (2)
Liason Officer,
SGAP Qld. Region Group
PO Box 41
LAWNTON
Qld4501