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TOTAL STATE OF

MEANSLEAMER

DATE AUG. '80

OLUME 2

NUMBER

7

OFFICE BEARERS:

PRESIDENT: Chris Goudey, Lot 8, Cozens Road, Lara, 3212. Tel. (052) 82 2154
VICE-PRESIDENT: Ian Buckmaster, 312 Waiora Road, Macleod West, 3085
VICE-PRESIDENT & TREASURER: Albert Jenkins, 11 Morwell Avenue, Watsonia, 3087
SECRETARY: Irene Bolster, P.O. Box 154 Ferny Creek, 3786. Tel. 755 1222
BOOK SALES: Lorraine Goudey, Lot 8, Cozens Road, Lara, 3212. Te. (052) 82 2154
EDITOR: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084. Tel. 45 2997 (A.H.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Our next meeting will be taken up mostly by the business of electing new office bearers for the forthcoming year.

We have been urging members to get their nominations in early; however, we can receive them on the night of the Annual General Meeting.

A nomination slip was included in last month's Newsletter. Member-ship fees for the year 1980-81 are now due, and should be sent to our Secretary, Irene Bolster. Be sure to use the correct slip - "A" is for renewal of membership, and "C" is for new membership.

After the elections, I will give a talk on a selection of rare and uncommon ferns, if time permits.

At our last meeting, Garry Lawes gave a very interesting and entertaining talk. He also brought along the largest plant of Davallia fijiensis I have ever seen - it would have been four to five feet across the top. Garry also donated and auctioned a large plant of Davallia mariesii for the Society. Thanks, Garry, for a very enjoyable evening.

Very few entries were received for our competition last month, and as a result there was no Novice Section. The results for the Open Section were:

lst Place: Miss Y. Goudey
2nd Place: Mr. George Lee Kim
3rd Place: Miss C. Goudey

We will not be holding a competition at the next meeting, but will be awarding prizes for the aggregate competition.

We would like to see more items submitted for publication in the Newsletter, by YOU, the member. It seems to be left to the same three or four people every month.

Let us know what you are growing, or how you grow it - how you built your fernery, your method of growing ferns from spore - or even about a holiday you may have had.

You may have a good method of getting rid of insect pests which attack your plants. Let us hear about it.

We would also welcome any ideas you might have to improve our Society - we have a suggestion box at each meeting.

CHRIS GOUDEY President

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

One way in which we can spread word of our Society is by displays at various horticultural shows. This was demonstrated last weekend at the Annual Show of Maroondah Group of S.C.A.P., at Ringwood.

Ted and I mounted a display of ferns (Australian natives only, as it was a S.C.A.P. show) and we were pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest shown, and the variety of questions which were asked, as well as the number of prospective new members.

It was apparent that many people had never heard that our Society exists, and although distance would preclude some from attending meetings in Melbourne, the potential is there for gaining new members. I feel we must get amongst the general public, and advertise ourselves.

There are two more shows coming up for which we have promised displays. Can anyone help either by lending ferns and/or attending on the stand for a little while? One is to be held on Melbourne Show weekend, at Ferny Creek, and the other is on Cup weekend, at Mount Dandenong.

I hope all your nominations are in for the Annual General Meeting there is still time to enter someone's name. If you feel the mail will not make it in time, you can telephone me, and fill in the nomination slip later.

IRENE BOLSTER
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for the month was as follows:

Subscriptions \$363.00, profits from spore bank \$40, sale of ferns \$31, plant sales \$4, special effort \$45.50, supper \$2.40, donation \$5.

Total \$490.90

Expenses for the month were as follows:

Newsletter and postage \$189.66, hire of hall \$20. Total \$209.66

Balance \$434.87.

ALBERT JENKINS Treasurer

SUMMARY OF TALK GIVEN BY MR. GARRY LAWES AT THE SOCIETY'S JULY MEETING

Garry began with a short history of ferns, and described how boxes which were used to keep ferns moist during transit developed into "Wardian Boxes" of cases. These housed many of our ancestors' fern collections and modern day terrariums are a continuation of this idea.

He showed us a most beautiful specimen of Davallia fijiensis major which was about 5' in diameter, and told us some facts about its history, and what has been done to grow it to its present size.

Another interesting fern was the Anemia phyllitidis, a tropical American fern. This is a collector's item, needing a hothouse. It was thought that it belonged to the Osmunda family; however, it has been found that the Anémia is a completely different fern, and is commonly known as the Flowering Fern. Spores are plentiful and progagation is not difficult.

Garry went on to talk about plants similar to ferns, and are compatible with them, e.g. Aralia, Dizzicothia eglantisma, Cycas revoluta, Calathea, Asparagus myriocladus rectafractus and beautiful Syngoniums. He showed how these plants mix with and complement ferns and provide a contrast to the various shades of green.

He continued by emphasising that we should check the soils when plants are purchased and should feed them where necessary; one of the best foods to use is ordinary compost, as mentioned by Albert Jenkins in his talk recently.

Some of the important things that we should remember are:

- We should talk about ferns amongst ourselves, and thus learn from each other.
- 2. Use the common names of ferns, if you are not sure.
- 3. Watch for snails and slugs use pellets to control them.
- Endeavour to copy the natural conditions in which the ferns grow nature knows best.

Garry left us with a few thoughts -

- (a) We should love plants and ferns for their natural beauty; to be able to enjoy them is the most important reason for having them.
- (b) If you do not know the botanical names, please do not worry; I do not know them all by any means, but I do love ferns and I hope you all do also.
- (c) Most people say that they are afraid to talk to experts: The people here in the Society are the best - they really are your friends, and I wonder if we know how lucky we are.

A trip to the Strzelecki ranges during the May school vacation to view the many ferns in the Bolga and Tarra Valley National Parks was a very enjoyable experience for my family and myself.

There are 37 varieties of ferns listed in the brochure available from the ranger (he is more often in the office at Bolga Park). The walking tracks are very well cared for and are quite easy for even elderly people to enjoy. You may also see lyrebirds, wombats and wallabies. We found the many types of fungi very interesting and my daughters were quite delighted to discover several hundred brilliant orange toadstools growing among lush green umbrella Sphagnum on a fallen tree.

The Tarra Valley walk is about one hour, and the Bolga Park about one and a half hours at a very leisurely pace, including plenty of discovery time, but both parks have much shorter walks if you do not wish to traverse the complete area.

Our surprise came that evening when we entered the dining room of the small Balook Motel on Grand Ridge Road (right between both parks). The owners were also the chefs, and what a gourmet meal they set before us. Roy and Enid Swift buy all the food fresh each day in Yarram (I am sure they have never owned a can opener in their lives!) and we all agreed the soup was delicious, the steak dianne with fresh vegetables outstanding, and the sweets a worthy finale to the meal.

We stayed three days and each night returned to enjoy the wonderful food provided by Roy and Enid. So, if you are thinking of a weekend viewing ferns in the Strzelecki Ranges, be sure to call and sample the hospitality at the Balook Motel.

If any member would like a copy of The Ferns of Bolga and Tarra Valley National Parks, please write to me.

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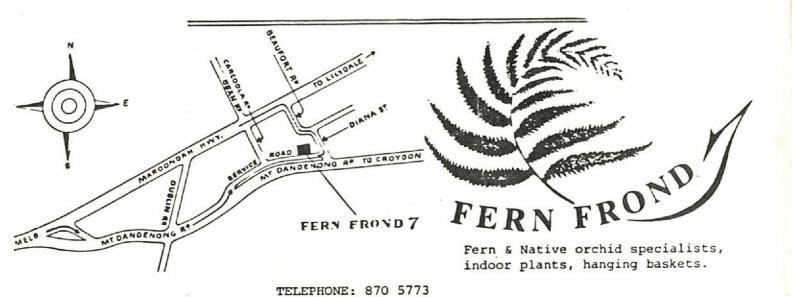












PSILOTUM NUDUM - ITS SIGNIFICANCE

R. MacPherson

Last year, we were given an excellent lecture on ferns of the Botanical Gardens. It was most interesting, and one fern which impressed me and many others was the skeleton fern, Psilotum nudum.

Psilotum nudum belongs to the family psilotopsida, along with Psilotum flaccidum and the surviving fork ferns (Tmesipteris). All the others extinct, e.g. Rhynie. Psilotum nudum is a primitive plant which reflects a minute change from the supposed first plant on this planet. However, paleobotanists still argue whether this is so, or whether it is a result of a series of reductions from a more complex ancestor.

Psilotum nudum is more widespread than Psilotum flaccidum, extending throughout the tropics as far north as Hawaii and south as New Zealand. P. flaccidum is found only in Australia, Jamaica, Mexico and Pacific Islands. This gives an example of how primitive our fern flora is and the importance of preserving it. We should feel proud in knowing that it is one of the last remnants of the old fern world and that it does occur only here. Cultivation is not easy, even if specimens can be obtained. P. flaccidum requires heat and does not stand repotting often. P. nudum is very slow growing and is suited to the open mixtures, ideally in a basket.

Its root structure is interesting as it reflects many findings in the fossil world. The rhizome is colourless and bears rhizoidal hair which imitates roots aided by a mycorhizial association with fungal hyphae.

Finally, without being too complicated (which is difficult when discussing these particular ferns) the similarity of the rhizome and gameophyte must be mentioned. Until 1940 there was a distinct anatomical difference between the two. This was the fact that a rhizome has a vascular system and a gameophyte does not. Hollaway (1940) however, discovered some very large prothalli from a larva flow in Auckland Harbour. These prothalli had a definite vascular system right down to the xylem and phloem and endodermis.

PSILOTUM NUDUM (Cont'd.)

No morphological difference was noted except for the presence of archegonia and antheridia; another difference was the presence of a diploid number. A gameophyte usually has a haploid number. This would suggest a full sporophyte role.

Some botanists associated the vascular system with the diploid number and deemed it a freak occurrence, as it occurs nowhere else in the pteridophyte world. However, vascularisation has never accompanied a doubling of a chromosome number, and morphologically there is no reason why it should. Unfortunately, there is no proof to the thinking that ancient ferns also followed the theory of alternation of generation until gameophytes can be found from the Devonian Age. It does make you wonder which came first - the gameophyte or the sporophyte?

So, as you can see, this simple fern does have more importance attached to it than most other ferns, and more than most of us realise.

SPORE LIST - AUGUST, 1980

by Rod Hill

Spore samples may be purchased at monthly meetings, or by sending a list of your requirements, with a stamped self-addressed envelope, <u>plus</u> a 20¢ stamp for each species requested, to Mr. R. Hill, 4l Kareela Road, Frankston, Vic., 3199.

My thanks to those people who have already provided spore samples for the bank. Remember that the success of the spore bank depends on donated spore from members. If you have spore to donate, you may either collect it yourself (see February Newsletter) or gather the fronds on the evening of our monthly meeting and present them to me sealed in a plastic bag. As I am swapping spore with several overseas fern societies, even spore of fairly common ferns will be useful.

Species available:

Adiantum caudatum (4-80)

A. concinnum (10-79)

A. formosum (5-80)

A. gracillimum (7-80)

A. hispidulum (3-80)

A. mathewsii (3-80)

A. sylvaticum (5-80)

A. sp. (S.E.Qld) (5-80)

Aglaomorpha meyeniana (12-79)

Angiopteris palmiformis (12-79)

Arachniodes aristata varigata (2-80)

Asplenium flabellifolium (2-80)

A. scleropium (7-80)

Athyrium australe (3-80)

A. dilatum (5-80)

A. japonicum (4-80)

A. japonicum (Taiwan) (?)

Blechnum ambiguum (1-80)

B. brasiliense (12-79)

B. camfieldii (7-80)

B. cartilagineum (12-79)

B. chambersii (3-80)

B. discolor (12-79)

B. fluviatile (3-80)

B. gibbum (4-80)

B. occidentale (5-80)

B. orientale (12-79)

B. penna-marina (1-80)

B. vulcanicum (3-80)

B. wattsii (4-80)

B. whelani (7-80)

B. sp. (King Is.) (12-79)

Cheilanthes distans (2-80)

C. tenuifolia (11-79)

Spore List (Cont'd)

Christella dentata (2-80)

C. parasitica (5-80)

Cibotium schiedei (12-78)

Colysis ampla (1080) Culcita dubia (3-80)

Cyathea australis (2-80)

C. baileyana (3-80)

C. brownii (2-80)

C. callosa (12-79)

C. celebica (7-80)

C. contaminans (12-79)

C. cooperi (1-80)

C. cunninghamii (2-80)

C. dealbata (7-80)

C. leichhardtiana (5-80'

C. meduilaris (5-80)

C. medullaris & Smithii (6-70)

C. rebeccae (8-79)

C. woolsiana (8-79)

C. sp. (Borneo) (?)

Cyclosorus truncatus (12-79)

C. sp. (4-80)

Cystopteris fragilis (2-80)

Dicksonia antarctica (11-79)

D. squarrosa (1-80)

D. youngiae (5-80)

D. sp. (Qld.) (5-80)

Dryopteris aemula (?)

D. crassirhizoma (8-77)

D. sp. (Japan) (4-80)

Lastreopsis hispida (4-80)

L. marginans (12-79)

L. nephrodioides (7-80)

L. shepherdii (12-79)

L. smithiana (7-80)

Leptopteris fraseri (1-80)

Matteuccia orientalis (?)

M. struthiopteris (12-79)

Osmunda regalis (contorted) (12-79)

Pellaea falcata nana (12-79)

Platycerium coronarium (12-79)

P. holttumii (12-79)

Polypodium aureum glaucum (1-80)

P. vulgare (10-78)

Rolystichum aculeatum (2-80)

P. australiense (2-80)

P. braunii (8-78)

P. formosum (7-80)

P. fragile (7-80)

P. lentum (3-79)

P. manicum (11-79)

P. proliferum (2-80)

P. scopulinum ('78)

P. setiferum (3-80)

P. setiferum "Falcatum Dyce" (?)

P. tsuse-simense (7-80

Pteris blumeana (12-79)

P. comans (1-80)

P. tremula (12-79)

P. tripartita (12-79)

Pyrrosia longifolia (7-80)

Rumohra adiantiformis (5-79)

Sphaerostephanos taiwanensis (8-79)

Sticherus lobatus (2-80)

Tectaria Muelleri (7-80)

Todea barbara (2-80)

Treeferns (mixed Cyatheas -

subgen. Sphaeropteris)

Woodwardia radicans (7-80)

DIARY DATES - MAKE A NOTE!

August 14th: Annual General Meeting

November 13th: BOB BONE will speak

September 11th: ROSEMARY ISAN, of the

Department of Agriculture

December 11th: ALBERT JENKINS will

October 9th: CHRIS GOUDEY, with an illustrated talk on

talk on creating a mini rain forest

New Zealand

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

on fern growing

Time of Meeting: 8 p.m. Venue: Burnley Horticultural School Hall, Burnley

Note: In the event of a power strike on the evening of any meeting, we regret that the meeting must be cancelled.

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