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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Ou: first two orders of books from the Los Angeles Fern Society have arrived; they were sent by ship, which arrived on 19th October. The books are now in Bond storage, until we can produce a Bill of Lading and Customs Invoice. A telegram was sent to the L.A.I.F.S. seeking these documents as soon as I received notice of the arrival. I am hoping that they will arrive in time to enable us to have the books available at our November meeting.

In the meantime, we have received a small parcel of books from England (12 only), called A Catalogue of Hardy Ferns. The booklet is a very extensive list of ferns (517 in fact) with 62 illustrations of ferns which were available at the Nursery of H. Stansfield between 1900 and 1910. Naturally, they are British ferns, but many of them are obtainable here in Australia. The books will sell for \$4.00 each.

Thank you for your enquiries about the New Zealand Fern Tour - seats are filling up fast.

For those interested, I will arrange permits to import ferns and fern spore; we should be able to do it as a group, with quite a saving, provided each person restricts themselves to one or two of each species. There will be no limits with spore.

Japanese Pteridological Society C/- Dr. K. Iwatsuki, Dept. of Botany, Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. The results of last month's competition are as follows:

| Novice | | | Open: | | |
|--------|------------|-----|-------|----|--------|
| lst: | A.Wilson | | lst: | с. | Goudey |
| 2nd: | G.Stagoll | | 2nd: | с. | Goudey |
| 3rd: | George Lee | Kim | 3rd: | м. | Bryant |

The fern chosen for next month's competition is an Asplenium.

I have had several enquiries recently about overseas Fern Societies. For those interested, here is a list of some of them.

<u>Nelson Fern Society</u>, C/- Mrs. Phyllis Barnes, 30 Marybank Rd., Atawhai, Nelson, N.Z.

American Fern Society C/- Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Los Angeles International Fern Source C/- Jo Myers, 14895 Gardenhill Drive, Lattiranda, California, 90638, USA

Palm Beach County Fern Society 1880 Carambula Road, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33406, U.S.A.

International Tropical Fern Society 8720 Southwest 34th Street, Miami, Florida, 33165, U.S.A.

The British Pteridological Society C/- A.R. Busby, 42 Lewisham Road, Smethwidk, Warley, West Midlands, B 66 2BS United Kingdom.

Nippon Fernist Club, C/- Professor Satoru Kurata, Dept. of Forest Botany, Faculty of Agriculture, Tokyo University, Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan 113

> CHRIS GOUDEY President

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

In her article on growing ferns, which appeared in the October edition of "Your Garden", Jan Maher mentioned the Fern Society, and we have been pleased to note the number of enquiries we have received regarding membership. What is surprising is the large percentage of letters which came from Queensland. The people of that state seem to be most interested in ferns and their cultivation, and I hope we can help them with information through our Newsletter.

Don't forget, all you country and interstate members - if you are ever in Melbourne on the second Thursday of the month, do try to come to a meeting and make yourself known. We'll make you especially welcome.

Please keep in mind the trip to Tarra Valley, on the 15th/16th November. Anyone who is interested, please ring me for details (755 1222). Some of us, and no doubt many others too, have visited this area and can tell of some beautiful ferns there.

We are also arranging a trip to the Wangaratta area in the new year, to vits a large fernery there. Maybe we can meet up with members from the north of Victoria - we'll keep you posted.

I have received a request for spore or small splants of Nephrolepsis exaltata c.v. elegantissima. Can anyone help please?

IRENE BOLSTER Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Revenue for the last month is as follows:

Subscriptions \$419.00, Spore Bank \$4.60, Special Effort \$47.40, Donations \$50.00, Teas \$6.70 - totalling \$517.70.

Expenditure for the month is as follows:

Refund of Postage \$2.00, Newsletter - printing and postage \$437.39, Hire of Hall \$62.00, Secretarial Expenses \$92.99 - totalling \$584.38.

Current balance: \$1,331.63

RAY CASMERE Treasurer

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SUMMARY OF TALK GIVEN BY CHRIS GOUDEY AT OCTOBER MEETING

A. Whytcross

At our last meeting, Chris Goudey gave a most interesting illustrated talk on the trip he and Lorraine took around New Zealand, and told us about the many varieties of ferns which they saw on their travels there.

He began his talk by handing around fronds of New Zealand ferns for our inspection. These were taken from plants he had imported and now has growing.

Among them were the Prostrate Treefern, of which there are two varieties, the soft and the hard. The hard variety, Cyathea colensoi, has red stems, and the trunk runs along the ground. Then we saw the most common Pteris -Pteris macilenta, the Shining Spleenwort - Asplenium lucidum which, by the way, is growing here in Victoria in the Botanical Gardens, Ripponlea and Ballarat. The most common Shieldfoot - Polystichum vestitum, and another common fern, Blechnum capense, the Bristly Shield, Gypsy Fern, Weeping Spleenwort, which is also very common and grows everywhere on cliffs, road banks, etc, and has different fronds, Blechnum vulcanicum, the Wedgewater fern which also grows in Tasmania, and the Alpine fern which grows on Mt. Cook were other ferns shown.

We saw the Button Fern, Pellaea Rotundifolia, growing in a pot, and in terrariums Chris had the Kidney Fern, Trichomeres reniforme, and The Prince of Wales Plumes, Leptopteris superba, said to be the most beautiful fern in the world.

Chris then went on to show us a number of pressed fronds, among which were Polystichum vesticum, Shield Fern, Trichomares reniforme, Kidney Fern, Blechnum filiformis, Climbing Fishbone - which runs along the ground and climbs up trees 10 to 12 feet, and only produces fertile fronds when high up, but not on the ground. Then there were fronds of the New Zealand Filmy Ferns, world-famous, the rain forests being full of them, the Button Fern, Pellaea rotundifolia, Paesia scaberula, related to bracken, of which there is quite a large patch growing at Como. Pteris macilents, and the small treefern Dicksonia Squarrusa, which produces stolons, or underground runners, and runs down to the sea were shown, as were fronds of Prince of Wales Plumes, Leptopteris superba, the most beautiful fern in the world, which grows in high humidity. If the rain forest where they grow were to be thinned out, they would most probably die. This fern does well in a terrarium.

To finish off his talk, Chris then showed 150 slides of the trip. Chris and Lorraine started their trip by flying to Christchurch, and their first · glimpse of the New Zealand was of the Southern Alps, seen from the plane window. After looking at the Botanical Gardens in Christchurch, they drove their campervan south via the Canterbury Plains, to the Hermitage, at Pt. Cook. The whole valley there is the bed of a glacier; however, as it was March, there was not as much snow about as there is at other times of the year. The Alpine Water Fern was very common around the Hermitage; this fern also grows in Victoria. Another interesting plant was the Mt. Cook lily. After leaving Mt. Cook, the next stop was Queenstown, a very picturesque town on Lake Wakatipu, with the "Remarkables" mountains in the background, which in winter are covered with snow. There are very nice gardens there, lake cruises to take, and jet boat rides on the Shotover River, or you can take a Gondola ride to the Skyline Restaurant, 1500 feet above Queenstown, with its magnificent views. Coronet Peak, the world-famous ski resort, is also nearby. A chairlift runs to the top, where one can look across to Skippers Canyon, another popular tourist spot.

Then it was on to Milford Sound, through the Homer Tunnel, which is 1 km. long and runs through the mountain, the only way to Milford for road traffic, which alternates for half an hour each way through the tunnel. Beech trees were the most common trees seen in the rain forests and fern country.

There are picnic facilities available (but watch out for the sandflies) at Milford Sound, which has a prolific yearly rainfall, and cruises can be taken on the sound.

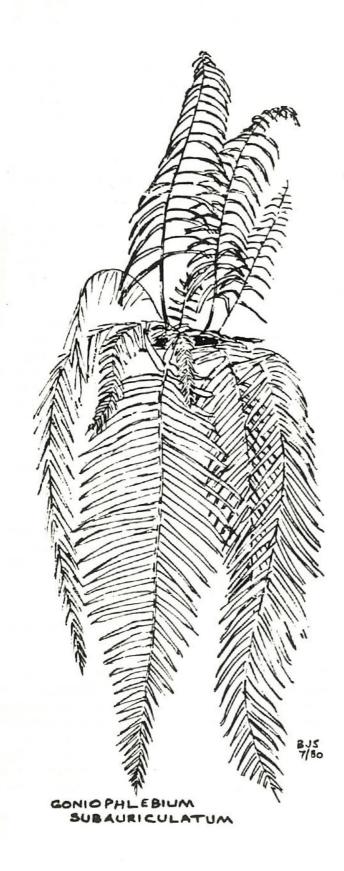
Mitre Peak rises up 6,000 feet out of the water, which is also 6,000 feet deep, and the Queen Mary could sail in, turn and go out again, if necessary. There are many waterfalls to be seen - Bowen Falls, Sterling Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, to name a few - and Dicksonia squarrusa could be seen growing at the high water mark along the cliffs.

After leaving the Sound, it was on to the S.W. Coast, over the Haast Pass, to Fox Glacier, where the N.Z. Christmas Bush, Metrosideros, was growing and flowering abundantly. The Fox Glacier is an extremely interesting sight, and a helicopter runs flights over the Glacier for a closer inspection of the area, which is very rugged with huge crevasses the size of which you do not realise until you see them at close range. The Ranger Station runs slide evenings runs slide evenings several times a week. You can walk off the road anywhere into the bush in this area, and see all sorts of ferns, including Umbrella Moss, like a miniatrure treefern, Wedgewater Fern, Blechnum vulcanicum, and the Umbrella Fern, Sticherus cunningham, to name a few.

Chris and Lorraine then headed north to Greymouth, which specialises in Greenstone (Jade) jewellery, and further north to the Pancake Rocks, formed by layers of sediment, both interesting places, then on to Nelson where they met memebers of the Nelson Fern Society, and saw more ferns such as Paesia scaberula, and the Silver Treefern, Cyathea dealbata, also the biggest collection of Geckos (lizards) in New Zealand.

Leaving Nelson, they went to Picton and caught the ferry to Wellington - an extremely rough crossing.

In the North Island, a visit to Mt. Egmond, 8,250 feet, proved to be a disappointment, as the mountain was under cloud and they saw nothing. A visit to New Plymouth proved to be interesting, as there are two sunken glasshouses all connected with tunnels, the openings of which are completely closed up with ferns. Finally, a visit to the Rainbow Trout Hatchery near Rotorua, where they have a lovely fern garden, and if you are lucky, you will see a Kiwi there also. Another feature of the North Island is the amount of Pampas grass growing wild everywhere, and of course, there are no snakes in New Zealand.



Goniophlebium subauriculatum

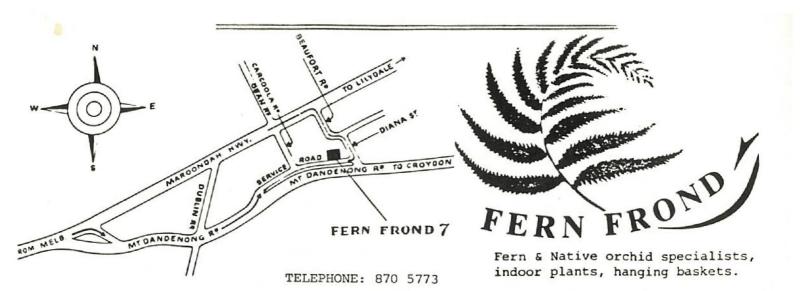
Goniophlebium subauriculatum is a tropical fern of the Polypodium family, and grows from North Queensland into Asia and the Pacific Region.

It has a fairly thin, long-creeping rhizome, covered with brown scales, which may grow on or just below the surface.

The pinnate fronds are long and flimsy, and under hothouse conditions may produce a lush green cascade up to 1.5 metres long. It can be grown without heat in Melbourne, but produces fewer, smaller fronds.

The orange/brown sori form two sunken rows on either side of the midvein of the pinnae, and appear on the upper surface as neat rows of "pimples".

The cultivar <u>Goniophlebium</u> subauriculatum cv. <u>Knightiae</u> has pinnae with deeply lobed margins.



SPORE LIST - NOVEMBER, 1980

The following list is supplementary to the spore list which appeared in the September Newsletter:

Adiantum raddianum 'Bridal Veil' (10-80) Arachniodes aristata (8-80) Campyloneuron phyllitidis (5-80) Cheilanthes californica (6-80) Davallia solida (6-80) Doryopteris concolor (8-80) Dryopteris goldiana (?) Lastreopsis munita (8-80) Lygodium flexuosum (8-80) Macrothelypteris polypodioides (11-79) Microlepia speluncae (8-80) Platycerium superbum (8-80) P. veitchii (8-80) P. wandae ('80) Polystichum standishii (8-80)

Spore samples may be purchased at monthly meetings, or by sending a list of your requirements with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, plus a 20¢ stamp for each species requested, to Mr. R. Hill, 41 Kareela Road, Frankston, Victoria, 3199.



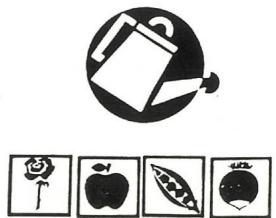
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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

A special thanks to Allison Whytcross for her excellent notes on the talk which Chris Goudey gave at our last meeting, and also to Rod Hill for his notes on our fern of the month, Goniophlebium subauriculatum. These notes accompany another excellent illustration by Barry Stagoll.

The Committee has decided that we should commence a Buy and Sell Column in our Newsletter - so, if you have something to sell, or wish to buy, please let us know, and we will endeavour to help you.

FIVE WAYS TO DRIVE YOUR FERNS CRAZY!

- Don't let them dictate to you. Feed, water and spray them when you feel like it, not when they ask for it.
- 2. Give them a day in the sun periodically, so they get a good suntan.
- Don't ask the experts about your ferns' needs. Find out for yourself, even if it means you lose fifty ferns in the process.
- Be sure to put your fern out on a frosty night, as people say this toughens them up and also kills off aphis, etc.
- ALWAYS keep the botanical names on your ferns, so that when people pull off a few fertile fronds for spore they will have the correct variety they want.

DIARY DATES

November 13th:

BOB BONE Fern Growing

December 11th:

ALBERT JENKINS Creating a mini rainforest CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

Time of meeting: 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.

8 p.m.

PREPARED AND PRINTED BY IVANHOE TYPING AND DUPLICATING SERVICE FOR THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA