

OFFICE-BEARERS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lorraine and I would like to sincerely thank our many friends who rang and offered to help us after our recent misfortune.

The storm which passed over Lara, the second one for this century, was only 400 metres wide, but had a wind speed of up to 175 kilometres per hour.

Our house was extensively damaged, and our caravan was wrecked beyond repair. But the glasshouses suffered only minimal damage - a few roof vents and a few sheets of fibreglass disappeared, so things could have been much worse.

The wind mixed up all the tickets on my sporelings, so there will be a lot of unnamed ferns getting about in the future!

I had a close encounter with a tiger snake this week. I went over to lock up the glasshouses late one night. Had a bit of trouble shutting one of the doors, but managed with much effort. The next morning, I found a 3 ft. 6 ins. tiger snake (dead) jammed in the door ... luckily, it had been going in and not trying to get out.

Right now, I'm feeling a little bit lucky!

Our first speaker for this year will be Doug Thomas, from Ringwood. Doug will be giving a talk on Ferns and other interesting features of Outback Queensland, on Thursday 12th February.

The fern for our January competition will be a Davallia: everyone has a Hare's Foot Fern, so bring it along - you may be a winner.

The	December winners	were:
	Novice	Open
lst	Reg Siebel	C. & Y. Goudey
2nd	Anne Bryant	Neil Beasley
3rd	Bill Taylor	C. & Y. Goudey

We are still holding quite a number of books from America which have not been collected. If they are not collected or accounts paid by the March meeting, they will be used to fill later orders.

> CHRIS GOUDEY President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well, another year's begun, but we can't begin 1981 without a comment or two on our Christmas break-up meeting.

As well as an interesting talk by Albert Jenkins, and our usual fern competition, we had a rather special Special Effort - with the winners being really thrilled with their prizes. These were a hamper containing many varieties of ferns, donated by committee members, and a delightful Christmas cake (beautifully decorated) which was most kindly baked and donated by Mrs. Mavis Potter.

At suppertime we were all able to chat over the lovely goodies brought along by the ladies and gentlemen (what a liberated lot we are!) and generally bring the year to a close on a very pleasant note.

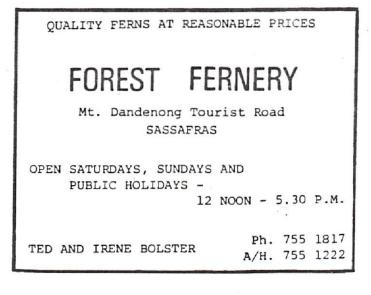
I do hope that as many members as possible will join us on the trip we have arranged to Norma's Fernery at Carboor (near Wangaratta), on Sunday, February 22nd. We are running a coach, and details of times, fares, etc. will be available at the next meeting on Thursday, February 12th. We are looking forward to meeting some of our members who live in the Wangaratta area.

The holiday period has seen several members travelling interstate. Among them, we were very pleased to meet Sue and Peter Wells, from Eastwood, N.S.W., and thank them for taking the time to meet up with us.

Do keep in mind our first "Exhibition of Ferns", to be held on March 21st. We trust that as many members as possible will bring along their favourite ferns on the Friday (20th) to help make the Show as attractive as possible. More details of the exhibition will be available at the next meeting.

IRENE BOLSTER Secretary

Pay a visit to ECHBERGS' NURSERY/FLORIST 1 Railway Parade, Highett THE HOME OF -FERNS, NATIVE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS "Flowers sent Worldwide" Telephone: 555 1471 A.H. 555 1179



SUMMARY OF TALK GIVEN BY ALBERT JENKINS AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING

At our Christmas break-up meeting, Albert Jenkins gave a most interesting talk about creating a mini rainforest.

He began by telling us of a trip which he and Chris made to South Australia last Easter, on which they met the President of the S.A. Fern Society, Ron Yates, who had a very good rainforest concept in his back garden. It was very impressive and after the style of thoughts that Albert himself had for many years. In fact, Albert's interest in rainforests went back to when he was nine years old, and later in the evening, we were shown slides of the little bit of New Zealand forest in which he used to roam.

Albert had asked Ron Yates to send some slides of his garden; however, instead, he sent 40 slides showing the rainforest which another member had built up. These slides showed the block before the home was built, and the progress of the building of the rainforest concept. Although no commentary was provided, the slides provided the members present with a lot of information. The various stages were shown - block of ground with trees growing, and the house under construction - the concept starting with the front of the house, then along the side of the house and into the back garden. Shadecloth was used to protect the treeferns at first, until the native trees grew, when it was finally removed. The rainforest complex was watered automatically for ten minutes night and morning.

Then Albert showed us some of his slides from New Zealand, Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland. We started our 'fern tour' in New Zealand, with Albert telling us of how, as a boy of 9, he used to walk to a farm 1½ miles out of town each evening for milk, and of a friend who lived there. Together, they had a wonderful time in the five acres of natural rainforest surrounding the farmhouse, with a brook running through, and such clear water you could spear trout. This was the beginning of his great interest in forestry and ferns, and on returning to New Zealand some 50 years later, he called at the farmhouse - to find his friend now running the farm. We saw slides of the farm, with the treeferns growing very high and in full sun, which they do not mind.

We also saw slides of a trip on which Albert went with his cousin, some 32 miles into the forest, where the road was so narrow it was impossible to pass another car, and then several slides of Mt. Egmont - 8,260 ft. high, rising from a plain. You cannot drive up the mountain; however, to climb you must have a guide, and it took Albert and his cousin four hours to climb up and three hours to come down. They were lucky enough to climb on a clear day, and from the crater on top of Mt. Egmont it was possible to see the top of the South Island of New Zealand. Albert also said that it was quite common over there to see front fences made from ferns, as they grow so prolifically over there that people cut them down and use them.

We then saw a few slides of Tasmania - masses of treeferns in a beautiful area of rainforest between Launceston and St. Mary's, in the north-east; then on to the west coast rainforests, where Albert recommended the caravan park in the National Park near Lake Pedder as a good place to stay. The biggest treefern he had ever seen was the feature of one slide, with Albert's wife standing beside it to give an accurate perspective of size. There were also some beautiful waterfalls, the mist creating humidity which is a necessity in growing ferns.

.../Cont'd.

SUMMARY OF ALBERT JENKIN'S TALK (Cont'd.)

Albert then went on to show us slides of his own rainforest complex, which has been under way now for 18 months. He has a liquidamber, which has grown so big that it now takes too much moisture from the soil, reducing humidity, so it will have to die. Albert has planted a gum tree beside it and when that grows he will lop the liquidamber back and grow his stags and elks over it, and thus create a thing of beauty. He has also planted five gum trees, a Lilly-pilly and a Melaleuca. The treeferns get plenty of sunlight, as Albert has no shadecloth in the complex. Even though the treeferns are out in the full sun most of the time, and also a bit of wind, they do well. He has made a path of red gum stumps, and has included a fish pond in the complex. We saw a Cooperi treefern which was only 18 inches high, with no trunk, when planted 18 months ago, but now has a 9 inch trunk and fronds 8 feet long. / Albert said that the secret of growing good ferns is to put good compost on top of the soil. We saw a Microsorium scandens growing on the bottom of a treefern trunk, and a slide taken from the balcony of the two storey house showed the Cyatheasand Dicksonias out in full sun. Albert commented that the ferns growing underneath were just wonderful and growing well.

Next we saw some slides of Albert's fern house - the approach to his back door - fish pond and waterfall - ferns growing each side of the path - and the back patio where he keeps all the "goodies" which he uses for shows to make a nice display, and a lovely Tassel maidenhair fern, stags, and a birdsnest fern with a Microsorium scandens around the bottom. He advises not to spray ferns in the heat of the day, and waters his fernhouse mainly by hand.

We then saw some slides of his daughter's rainforest complex, where she has ferns growing under treeferns on the east side of the house. She can put a fern out of Chris's glass house straight into the ground, and it will grow - she also uses plenty of compost (supplied by Albert). As queries arise from time to time regarding the water, Albert advises that one should never hose into the crown of a treefern if it is in full sun, as the water will scald it. However, if the treefern is under cover, it may be okay.

Our 'tour' continued with some slides of the Otways, then we skipped to Queensland to view some lovely tassels, and then on to the beautiful fernery at Kuranda Railway Station. Then we went to Paranella Park (a rainforest behind Townsville) and saw a Potato Fern - Angiopteris evecta.

Then it was north again, to the Atherton Tablelands, where ferns grow along the road, and we saw some beautiful stags, and also a Lygodium reticulata which had climbed about 25 feet up the trees.

Albert completed his talk by saying that if you want to put in a fernery, it can be done, provided you have shelter to windward: start with treeferns, then plant other ferns under them and put plenty of compost around, but the true rainforest concept requires a top cover of trees that, for suburban gardens, grow to not more than 30 - 30 ft., and an under-storey of smaller trees or shrubs to break down light and wind. Do not plant trees with invasive root systems, such as pines, elms, ash, poplars or deciduous trees. If you follow these rules, you will create a good environment for your ferns.

SUGGESTED TREES FOR A MINI RAIN FOREST

MEDIUM TREES:

Euc.	gunni	Euc.	calophylla
	gomphocephala		nicholi
	viminalis		scoporia
	leucoxlyn rosea		cladocalyx nana
	manifera	Tris	tania laurina
	burdettiana		conferta
	linearis	Ango	fera lanceolata

SMALL TREES:

LARGE SHRUBS (for windbreak):

Eugenia smithi	Grevillia peter	8'		
myrtifolia	poorinda Queen	8'		
preissiana	'Callistemon captain cook	5'		
Euc. lansdowniana	Correa reflexa	5'		
forrestiana				
Hymenospermum flavum				

I hope all members will make a resolution for 1981 to check all new purchases or potted ferns by removing them from their pots and checking for aeration, water-holding capacity, water penetration, etc., as I find many nurseries using a very poor grade mix. (You may remember that Gary Lawes recommended this as a number one priority.)

Also, I have found that Nutricote releases much faster in this hot weather than Osmocote does, so be very careful if you want to avoid foliage burn.

Finally, remember if you would like to buy loose Nitrosol - Maxicrop at a very good price, be sure to bring along your used Patra orange drink container.

KEITH HUTCHINSON Editor

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NEWS FROM THE SPORE BANK

Species available additional to December spore list:

Adiantum aethipicum (1.81) capillus-veneris (1.81) Asplenium bulbiferum (native form) 12.80) Cheilanthes sp. (S.E.Qld)(1.81) Doodia media (12.80) Doryopteris pedata (11.80) Lorinseria areolata (11.79) Polystichum andersonii (?) Pteris umbrosa (12.80) vittata (1.81) Syngramma alismifolia (12.80) Trismeria trifoliata

Species no longer available by mail: (although a last few capsules will still be available at meetings)

Campyloneuron phyllitidis Leptopteris fraseri Polystichum braunii -

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, 41 Kareela Road, Frankston, Victoria, 3199. Printed notes on the collection and propagation of spore are also available for 5¢.

SPEAKERS FOR 1981

FEBRUARY 12TH	DOUG THOMAS	Ferns and other interesting features of outback Queensland	
MARCH 12TH	HAROLD OLNEY	Adiantums	
APRIL 9TH	ROD HILL	Propagation of ferns from spores	
MAY 14TH	KEVIN HEINZE	Ferns in the garden	
JUNE 11TH	DAVID BEARDSLEY	Growing media	
JULY 9TH	DR. J. H. WILLIS		
AUGUST 13TH	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
SEPTEMBER 10TH	OPEN NIGHT	Talks by members of the Society	
OCTOBER 8TH	NOEL FITTS	Sprinkler installations - General nursery equipment, incl. greenhouses and watering	
NOVEMBER 12TH	HARRY JACKSON		
DECEMBER 10TH	CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP		

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

Included in the centre of this issue is a separate, coloured sheet, which gives members a most comprehensive index to Volumes 1 and 2 of the Fern Society Newsletter. It was prepared by Rod Hill, and must have taken quite a considerable amount of time. Thank you, Rod - I know that all our members will find this index extremely useful and time-saving!

Rod has passed on to me two invitations from members to all other members -

Don & Jennifer Green of "Fernsgalore" Nursery, 1 Higgins Street, Wangaratta, invite members to inspect their nursery and private collection if they are in that area.

Adele and Graeme Wallace, of 37 Bonython Street, Windsor, in Queensland, invite any members travelling to or through Brisbane to visit and inspect their fernery.
