



**FERN SOCIETY
OF VICTORIA**

NEWSLETTER

DATE Apr. '81
VOLUME 3
NUMBER 3

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

A record crowd attended our March meeting to hear Harold Olney speak on cultivating Adiantums (Maiden Hair Ferns).

As you would have read in the February Newsletter, my message 'went missing', so I would like to start off by thanking Norma for making us welcome at her fernery, and for the cuppa.

Thanks also to Don Rodda and to Garnet and Mary Frost for their help in making our trip to Carboor and Wangaratta an enjoyable one.

Quite a number of entries were received in our competition last month. The winners were:

Novice: Open:

1st: Bill Taylor 1st: Barry Stagoll
2nd: Bill Taylor
3rd: G. Pabst

The fern for next month's competition is a Polypodium.

We are holding books from America for the following people:

P. Hubbard, Elaine Bunting, Gwen Spencer, Helen Minogue, Neil Beasley, Norm Bunting, Lynette O'Loghlin, Leon Loftus, M. Borell, G. Gregory, Trevor Onn, and Chris Marks.

If you cannot attend the next meeting to pick up your books, would you please contact Mrs. L. Goudey, and we can post them to you.

There are a few vacant seats on the Tarra Valley - Bulga Park trip on the 11th. Please contact Irene Bolster for details.

We will meet up with the South Australian Fern Society at Bulga Park and spend the morning there, moving on to Tarra Valley for the afternoon. Bulga and Tarra Valley National Parks are situated in deep rain forest in the Strzelecki Ranges, and are rich in ferns. The rare Skirted Treefern (*Cyathea marcescens*) and the Slender Treefern are quite commonly encountered, and together with the Weeping Spleenwort (*Asplenium flaccidum*) and the Fragrant Fern (*Microsorium scandens*) are but a few of the many ferns in the area.

If you have been thinking of putting your name down for the Fern Society Tour to New Zealand, but have been putting it off, time is running out.

After April 10th, we won't be able to guarantee you a seat; you will have to take your chances. There are still vacancies. Give me a ring for information on (052) 82 2154, or see me at the April meeting.

CHRIS GOUDEY
President

EDITORIAL:

The 1,600 folk who attended our first Victorian Fern Display were served with a unique and exciting experience.

To see for the first time a Grub Fern, a Kidney Fern, a Button Fern or a Flowering Fern, brought sheer delight to the eyes of the beholder. For others, the brown paper-like leaves of the Drynaria, the silver toes of the Humata, the rare Adiantum farleyense, Marsha's Pride, and Pacific May, were a sight to be remembered.

Members who were on call were almost hoarse trying to answer all the questions being fired at them. Approximately 50 new members joined our Society.

To those who gave their assistance, and the many who brought their most precious ferns to the Display, we must express our most sincere thanks - may your ferns flourish for future displays!

Well done, Fern Society of Victoria!

KEITH HUTCHINSON
Editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

As our Editor's report on the Fern Display covers it most fully, there is really no need to add to his remarks, except to thank, on behalf of the Society, all those who helped before, during and after the Display, in so many diverse ways, and contributed to a most rewarding weekend.

Not only was the Show a financial success but, what is even more important, we made contact with so many members of the public and showed just what the Society is doing.

I hope we are all busy planning in some way towards next year's show, so that it will be bigger and brighter than ever.

Once again, members have asked if I can arrange transport to meetings for them. Can anyone help, please? The following members require a lift to the meetings:

Mrs. A. Yates, 82A Alma Terrace, Newport - Telephone 391 2378

Mrs. M. Kennedy, 204 Tramway Parade, Beaumaris - Telephone 99 3007

If you can help, could you please phone them direct, or I can pass on a message.

Any members who wish to meet at Tarra Valley for the trip on Saturday 11th April, will find us there by lunchtime. Let's hope our luck with the weather holds!

IRENE BOLSTER
Secretary

3½ YEARS RETIREMENT x L.T.C. = SPECTACULAR ADIANTUM DISPLAY

A spectacular display of Adiantums shown at the March meeting was the result of L.T.C., according to the speaker, Harold Olney.

L.T.C. (loving tender care) was the main ingredient used by Harold over the last three and a half years, which has transformed his academic interest in ferns into an accomplished enthusiast.

Although he's only been growing ferns for the past three and a half years, the amount of time spent in that period is probably equal to ten years spent by the non-retired.

Having reminded us that Adiantums are from the Polypodiaceae family, Harold pointed out that they are wrongly called maiden hair ferns. The term "maiden hair" only applies to one Adiantum and that is *Capillus-veneris*, latin meaning maiden's hair. It is very difficult for anyone to conjure up a maiden's hair picture when admiring the spectacular peruvianum, popularly called Silver Dollar. "I think that it does not look like a maiden's hair, but more like one of the very vigorous roller-skaters that you see on T.V. - big and bold and very beautiful", Harold said.

Adiantums vary from the fine mist type to the big, coarser, tropical size, which is a real tropical fern. Accordingly, Adiantums require two different environments -

a hot house, with heat of about 20°C and the equivalent humidity for those types from warmer climates, and a protected outdoors area for the hardier types,

Harold told us.

Much of his talk was taken up by showing those at the meeting the spectacular examples which he brought along. These quite clearly demonstrated L.T.C.

Harold took up growing Adiantums because they respond more easily than any other fern, and the huge variety available. Altogether, there are just on 200 species and countless cultivars. "One of the most beautiful of the cultivars, Pacific May, is not even registered by name. Someone has cultivated it and named it but didn't bother to register it", the meeting was told.

Some helpful hints were given on growing Adiantums. An analogy was drawn between growing ferns and keeping pets. "Ferns need exactly the same L.T.C. - you have to feed them and groom them. You have to cut off the fronds when they start to go brown - not wait until they die off; you have to cut them off as short as possible to prevent the base from becoming unsightly. For every frond that you cut off, you are assisting the plant in growing! When you cut these off, the croziers coming up will be stronger and better than ever and the fern will appreciate it" he said.

One precaution to take when you have purchased or received a new fern is to keep it in quarantine for about three weeks. A few weeks of isolation in a controlled condition where the fern may be observed will prevent any disease, if present, from spreading through your collection and perhaps wiping it out. The dreaded mealy bug was instanced.

Harold is convinced that an organic mix is best for growing Adiantums. He uses the same mix to grow Adiantums from spore to maturity. "By keeping them always in the same soil mixture, there is no adjustment period required."

Constituents of the mix are -

<u>Leaf Mould</u>	about 60% (Desert Ash, Pin Oak, Liquid Amber are among the best)
<u>Fern Fibre</u>	for drainage 20%
<u>Cow Manure</u>	10%
<u>Scoria</u>	10%

The extremely healthy examples shown by Harold at the meeting were a testimony to his theory on growing Adiantums in an organic mix.

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SOME UNUSUAL STOCK AT THE MOMENT

Dryandria rigidula, Qld.	Dryopteris carthusiana, U.K.
Gleichenia microphylla, Vic.	Doodia media, Vic.
Sticherus lobatus, Vic.	Dryopteris filix-mas, U.K.
Gonophlebium subauriculatum var. knightii, Qld.	

FERN BASKETS AVAILABLE AT APRIL MEETING

A sample of an excellent basket line, which will be available at the April meeting, was shown to the Fern Society last month.

Over 100 of the baskets have been sold over the past six weeks, the meeting was told.

The baskets may be purchased complete with liner, or separately. Usually costing about \$3.75 retail, these will be available to members for \$2.75.



DORYOPTERIS
PEDATA PALMATA
(HAND FERN)

See notes on following page.

DORYOPTERIS PEDATA VAR. PALMATA

by Chris Goudey

This fern is often referred to as the Hand Fern, palmate meaning hand shaped. The family Doryopteris consists of approximately 35 species which are mostly restricted to the American tropics.

Two species occur in Australia - D. ludens and D. concolor; the latter is sometimes confused with D. pedata var. palmata.

The "Hand Fern" is native to the tropics ranging from Central America south to Bolivia. The rhizome of this fern is short creeping, slender and densely covered with needle-like scales. The fronds grow to approximately 30 cm. and are dimorphic, that is, the sterile fronds are quite different from the fertile fronds. The sori are marginal, much the same as in Pteris.

This fern produces vegetative buds at the base of each leaf, usually one either side of the midvein. If the frond is pinned down to the soil medium in the pot once the buds appear, it will reproduce vegetatively. Doryopteris pedata var. palmata requires tropical conditions, a humus rich potting soil, plenty of humidity and deep shade.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

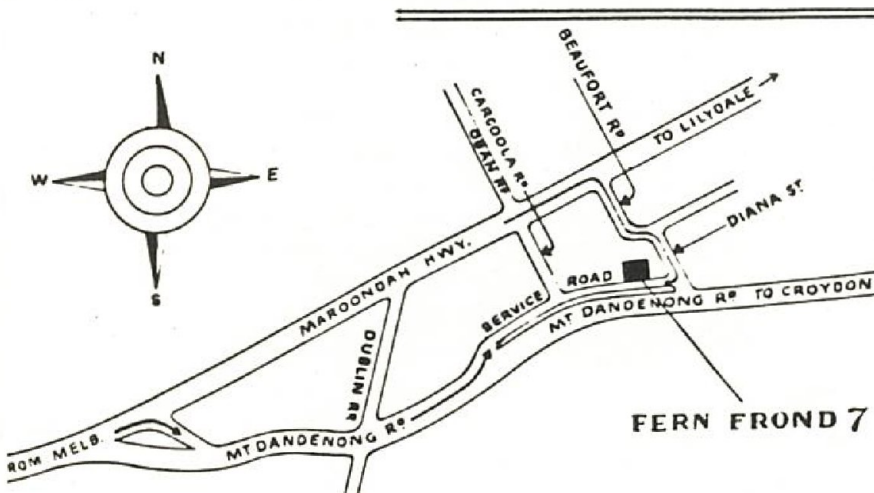
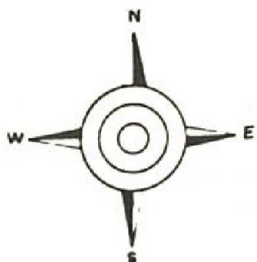
Fortunately, Lorraine Goudey did not know of the extra passenger she had whilst driving from Lara with a load of ferns for our Display, or she may have had a nasty accident! After the ferns were set on display, a member found a small tiger snake curled up quite happily in a basket. Now Lorraine has a snake tale to match that of her husband, Chris.

ooOoo

*First you take a sporling and you stick it in a pot,
Then you water it like mad - and the thing begins to rot.
So you get the fertilizer, Maxi-Nitro is the best,
The growth is most prolific - and so is every pest.
So you spray with Rogor 50 and dab with Sulphur Dust,
Then when the fern looks healthy, showing two green fronds of growth,
You forget the Baysol pellets - and a hungry slug eats both!*

ooOoo

It was a pleasant surprise to see Alyson Whytcross at our Fern Display, and to hear that she is on the mend. We hope to see her back at our meetings soon. We also thank Bernice and Keith Whight for the excellent job they have done in typing from our tape of our guest speaker's talks during Alyson's absence.



Fern & Native orchid specialists,
indoor plants, hanging baskets

SPORE LIST - APRIL, 1981

- ACROSTICHUM SPECIOSUM(10-80)
 ✓ ADIANTUM AETHIOPICUM(1-81)
 ✓ ADIANTUM CAUDATUM(6-80)
 ADIANTUM CONCINNUM(10-79)
 ✓ ADIANTUM FORMOSUM(5-80)
 ADIANTUM GRACILLIMUM(7-80)
 ADIANTUM PERUVIANUM(6-80)
 AD. RADDIANUM 'ELEGANS'(8-80)
 AD. RADDIANUM 'FRAGRANTISSIMUM'(8-80)
 ✓ AD. RADDIANUM 'MIST'(8-80)
 AD. RADDIANUM 'MULTICEPS'(8-80)
 AD. RADDIANUM 'PACIFIC LADY'(8-80)
 ADIANTUM SYLVATICUM(8-80)
 AD. TENERUM 'FERGUSSONII'(8-80)
 AMPHINEURON OPULENTUM(2-81)
 ANOGRAMMA LEPTOPHYLLA(11-80)
 ARACHNIOIDES ARISTATA(8-80)
 ARACHNIOIDES ARISTATA VARIGATA(2-80)
 ASPLENIUM BULBIFERUM (NATIVE)(12-80)
 ASPLENIUM FLABELLIFOLIUM(11-80)
 ASPLENIUM NIDUS(10-80)
 ASPLENIUM SCLEROPRIUM(7-80)
 ASPLENIUM TRICHOMANES(6-80)
 ATHYRIUM ALPESTRE AMERICANUM(8-80)
 BLECHNUM AMBIGUUM(1-80)
 BLECHNUM ARTICULATUM(11-80)
 BLECHNUM CAMFIELDII(7-80)
 BLECHNUM CARTILAGINEUM(12-79)
 BLECHNUM CHAMBERSII(3-80)
 BLECHNUM DISCOLOR(12-79)
 BLECHNUM FLUVIATILE(3-80)
 BLECHNUM GIBBUM(4-80)
 BLECHNUM MINUS(8-80)
 BLECHNUM NUDUM(7-80)
 BLECHNUM OCCIDENTALE(5-80)
 BLECHNUM ORIENTALE(12-79)
 BLECHNUM PATERSONII(7-80)
 BLECHNUM PENNA-MARINA(1-81)
 BLECHNUM SPICANT(7-80)
 BLECHNUM VULCANICUM(3-80)
 BLECHNUM WATTSII(4-80)
 BLECHNUM WHELANI(7-80)
 BLECHNUM SP.(KING IS)(12-79)
 CHEILANTHES CALIFORNICA(6-80)
 CHEILANTHES DISTANS(1-81)
 CHEILANTHES TENUIFOLIA(11-79)
 CHEILANTHES SP.(S.E.QLD)(1-81)
 CHRISTELLA DENTATA(3-81)
 CHRISTELLA PARASITICA(5-80)
 CHRISTIOPTERIS VARIENS(4-80)
 CIBOTIUM SCHIEDEI(12-79)
 COLYSIS AMPLA(1-80)
 CULCITA DUBIA(3-80)
 CYATHEA AUSTRALIS(10-80)
 CYATHEA BROWNII(2-80)
 CYATHEA CALLOSA(12-79)
 CYATHEA CELEBICA(7-80)
 CYATHEA CONTAMINANS(12-79)
 CYATHEA COOPERI(2-81)
 ✓ CYATHEA CUNNINGHAMII(2-80)
 CYATHEA DEALBATA(7-80)
 CYATHEA LEICHHARDTIANA(8-80)
 CYATHEA MEDULLARIS(5-80)
 CYATHEA MEDULLARIS & SMITHII(6-80)
 CYATHEA REBECCAE(8-79)
 CYATHEA WOOLLSIANA(8-79)
 CYATHEA SP.(BORNEO)(?)
 CYATHEA SP.(PHILIPPINES)(12-79)
 CYSTOPTERIS FRAGILIS(10-80)
 DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA(3-81)
 DICKSONIA SQUARROSA(1-80)
 DICKSONIA YOUNGIAE(5-80)
 DICKSONIA SP.(QLD)(5-80)
 DIPLAZIUM AUSTRALE(3-80)
 DIPLAZIUM DILATATUM(5-80)
 DOODIA ASPERA(3-81)
 DOODIA MEDIA(12-80)
 DORYOPTERIS CONCOLOR(8-80)
 DORYOPTERIS PEDATA(11-80)
 DRYOPTERIS AEMULA(?)
 DRYOPTERIS CRASSIRHIZOMA(8-77)
 DRYOPTERIS GOLDIANA(?)
 DRYOPTERIS SP.(JAPAN)(4-80)
 ✓ GLEICHENIA MICROPHYLLA(10-80)
 HYPOLEPIS AUSTRALIS(1-81)
 LASTREOPSIS ACUMINATA(12-80)
 LASTREOPSIS DECOMPOSITA(7-80)
 LASTREOPSIS HISPIDA(4-80)
 LASTREOPSIS MARGINANS(12-79)
 LASTREOPSIS MUNITA(8-80)
 LASTREOPSIS NEPHRODIOIDES(7-80)
 LASTREOPSIS SMITHIANA(7-80)
 LORINSERIA AREOLATA(11-79)
 LUNATHYRIUM JAPONICUM(1-81)
 LYGODIUM FLEXUOSUM(8-80)
 MACROTHELYPTERIS POLYPODIOIDES(11-79)
 MATTEUCCIA ORIENTALIS(?)
 MATTEUCCIA STRUTHIOPTERIS(12-79)
 MICROLEPIA SPELUNCAE(8-80)
 MICROSORIUM PAPPEI(7-80)
 PELLAEA FALCATA(1-81)
 PELLAEA FALCATA NANA(11-80)
 PELLAEA PARADOXA(11-80)
 PLATYCERIUM CORONARIUM(12-79)
 PLATYCERIUM HOLTUMII(12-79)
 ✓ PLATYCERIUM SUPERIUM(8-80)
 ✓ PLATYCERIUM VEITCHII(8-80)
 PLATYCERIUM WANDAE('80)
 PNEUMATOPTERIS SOGERENSIS(12-80)
 POLYPODIUM VULGARE(10-78)
 POLYSTICHUM ACULEATUM(2-80)
 POLYSTICHUM ANDERSONII(?)
 POLYSTICHUM AUSTRALIENSE(5-80)
 POLYSTICHUM FORMOSUM(7-80)
 POLYSTICHUM LENTUM(12-80)
 POLYSTICHUM MUNITUM(9-80)
 POLYSTICHUM PROLIFERUM(8-80)

POLYSTICHUM SETIFERUM 'ACUTILOBUM'(3-81)
 POLYSTICHUM STANDISHII(8-80)
 POLYSTICHUM TSUSE-SIMENSE(7-80)
 POLYSTICHUM VESTITUM(10-80)
 PTERIS BLUMEANA(12-79)
 PTERIS COMANS(1-80)
 PTERIS TREMULA(9-80)
 PTERIS TRIPARTITA(12-79)
 PTERIS UMBROSA(12-80)
 PTERIS VITTATA(3-81)
 RUMOHRA ADIANTIFORMIS(EXOTIC)(1-81)
 RUMOHRA ADIANTIFORMIS(NATIVE)(1-81)
 SPHAEROSTEPHANOS TAIWANENSIS(8-79)
 STICHERUS TENER(1-81)
 TECTARIA MUELLERI(7-80)
 ✓TODEA BARBARA(3-81)
 TREEFERNS (MIXED CYATHEAS)(?)
 TRISMERIA TRIFOLIATA(2-80)
 ○ODDWARDIA RADICANS(7-80)

PLEASE NOTE:

In keeping with the latest edition of Jones & Clemesha (Australian Ferns & Fern Allies) the following new names are included on the spore list, replacing the older name in brackets.

Amphineuron opulentum (Cyclosorus sp.)
 Diplaxium australe (Athyrrium australe)
 " dilatatum (" dilatatum)
 Lastreopsis acuminata (L. shepherdii)
 Lunathyrium japonicum (Athyrrium japonicum)
 Pneumatopteris sogerensis (Cyclosorus truncatus)

If any members have spare Kodak slide boxes or similar small plastic or sturdy cardboard boxes that they could donate to the spore bank for mailing spore to country and interstate members, these will be greatly appreciated.

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. Alternatively, spore orders may be paid for by cheque, made payable to "Fern Society of Victoria". Printed notes on the collection and propagation of spore are also available for 5¢.

HINTS ON HOW TO CREATE A SUCCESSFUL
 OUTDOOR FERNERY:

Many people have planted gum trees to develop a mini-rain forest only to find the roots come to the surface and none of the ferns grow there.

This was the problem posed by Keith Hutchinson at the March meeting of the Fern Society.

"The main thing about planting a gum to avoid roots coming to the surface is to plant it in the wetter months," Keith said. "Also, the placing of a two foot pipe in the ground near it and keeping this filled up with water so that the water seeps down will also eliminate the roots coming to the surface for water," he added.

Keith told us of some trees which can be planted which are excellent in developing the right outdoor environment for growing ferns.


These are - Eucalyptus linearis (White Peppermint) which grows about 25 feet and has a very good root system, enabling you to plant ferns under it quite safely.

Eucalyptus cornuta grows about 15 feet.

Eucalyptus gunni (Cider Gum) which will grow very successfully in a wet spot. It grows to 40 feet.

Tristainia conferta (Queensland Box) which grows to about 25 feet in Victoria (50 feet in Queensland).

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- DIARY DATES -

APRIL 9TH: Rod Hill, speaking on
the propogation of ferns
from spores

MAY 14TH: Kevin Heinze, speaking on
ferns in the garden

JUNE 11TH: David Beardsley, speaking
on 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, speaking on
sprinkler installations,
general nursery equipment,
including greenhouses and
watering

NOVEMBER 12TH: Harry Jackson

DECEMBER 10TH: Christmas Break-up

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