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 LIBRARIAN: Bill Taylor, C/- Capital Laboratory Pty. Ltd., Rm. 307, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne, (Manchester Unity Building)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My message begins with a special welcome to our new Committee Members, and to last year's Committee Members who have chosen to serve the Society for another Our thanks and appreciayear. tion also go to the retiring members and, in particular, to Irene Bolster, our retiring Secretary. We also appreciate the efforts by all our active members. Irene mentioned most of them in her message at our A.G.M.; however, I would like to add my thanks to Barry Stagoll, Judy Bielicki and my wife Lorraine as well. Barry does the beautiful line drawings which appear in many of our Newsletters, and Judy we can thank for the excellent quality of our very popular Newsletter. Lorraine, as you all know, looks after book sales - quite a task, as I well know.

There was no competition or plant sales at our A.G.M., as our Committee had to step down for re-election. The fern chosen for next month's competition is a Lycopodium species (Tassel Fern) and October's competition will be a hanging basket.

One of our Tasmanian members, Mr. Michael Garrett of 3 Mimosa Court, Berriedale, 7011, Tel. 493559, together with Doris Wilson, Tel.492979, is in the early stages of starting up a Fern Society in Tasmania. We wish them luck, and have offered them any assistance we can give. If you have any Tasmanian friends or relatives who may be interested, please pass Michael's address or phone no. on to them. The Geelong City Council has allocated \$20,000.00 to the Geelong Botanic Gardens for the development of a walk-through fern glade in the Botanic Gardens at Geelong. The area chosen will have a water course running through it; this will end in a large pool.

Earlier this century, the Geelong Botanic Gardens could boast of having one of the largest collections of ferns in the Southern Hemisphere. At the lower end of the gardens, there was a large Fernery, comparable in size to the area at Ripponlea, which housed a collection of no less than 300 fern species and cultivars. From large exotic treeferns to smaller ferns, including the beautiful Prince of Wales Plume (Leptopteris superba) from New Zealand. Several large Kentia Palms and a clump of large Equisetrum ferns are all that remain where the fernery once stood. The aim of the Geelong City Council is to try and build again the collection that once flourished in their beautiful gardens - perhaps we can help?

The large fernery at Ripponlea is to be restored as well, in the near future.

We hope to have two new books on sale at the next meeting. The first is in the Your Australian Garden series, published by the David G. Stead Memorial Wildlife Research Foundation of Australia, and titled Ferns and Clubmosses. This little book deals with a selection of native ferns. It retails for \$2.50; we will be able to offer it to members at \$1.75 per copy.

The second book is one which I mentioned briefly in the last Newsletter. (Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd.)

'Exotic Ferns in Australia' is due to be released in the next few This book introduces a weeks. selection of common and rare exotic species and choice cultivars to the fern enthusiast. Some 100 species and cultivars are illustrated, some of these in colour for the first time. As well as aiding in the identification of exotic species, the book presents details of cultivation, country of origin, popularity, etc. We have followed an alphabetical arrangement throughout, and have included common names where known.

This book will retail for \$14.95; we hope to be able to sell to members for \$12.00. The Fern Growers Manual has not arrived as yet.

We are planning an excursion to Condons Track near Healesville in the spring. The area is rich in ferns, and it should prove to be a most enjoyable day.

Anyone visiting the U.K. wishing to see the best of Britain's ferns can obtain an information leaflet from us. The leaflet is compiled by the British Pteridological Society, and lists Botanic Gardens, private fern gardens, Fern Shows and Nurseries.

> CHRIS GOUDEY President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Looking back over our second year, we should feel pleased with what has been achieved during that time.

I suppose our most successful venture was the Fern Show last March, where we demonstrated to the public just what a variety of ferns are available. Many new members were recruited at this and other shows where we displayed ferns.

We have continued to welcome new members throughout the year, and by June our membership totalled just on 400, with members in all states except the Northern Territory - perhaps we should work on finding some from that part of Australia.

Our field trips have been to varied places and members have enjoyed the different scenery - The Dandenongs, Tarra Valley, Ripponlea, Badgers Creek - and as well as the interesting ferns, we have also enjoyed the companionship. Thanks are due to our drivers, Don Rodda and Albert Jenkins for their help in making the long journeys enjoyable.

We hope members have enjoyed and found much of interest in the diverse topics covered by our speakers this year. If anyone has a suggestion for a speaker for next year, please let us know so that we can have as varied a programme as possible.

(Continued on page 4)

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Cont'd.)

Thanks are also due to Rod Hill, for the time and effort he puts into running the Spore Bank. Rod has encouraged many members to try their hand at spore raising and incidentally has raised quite an amount of money for Society funds.

Our members who cannot get to meetings appreciate the resume of the talk each month. This is printed in the newsletter from the transcript of the tape by Keith Stubbs - not an easy task, that I know! Thanks also to Keith and his helpers Kath and Jean for all the work involved in getting the newsletter out on time.

Thanks to Lynn and Rita - doing a most worthwhile job with the 'supper cuppas'. To Mary and Albert, for their help at the Hall - to Bill for his organisation at the Show - to Geoff for his "ideas" : everyone has done his/her part for the Society, and we hope that with your co-operation next year we will be bigger and better.

A final thank-you to everyone for all the help so willingly given to me - I know Keith Stubbs will have just the same co-operation in the future.

IRENE BOLSTER Retiring Secretary

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1981/82

As we commence the coming twelve months, we welcome Keith Stubbs as our new Secretary, Jean Trudgeon as our new Treasurer. We also welcome Bernice Hale, Reg Siebel, Audrey O'Connell and Margaret Radley to our committee.

We also thank retiring members Irene and Ted Bolster and Mary McKeon for their sterling efforts for the Society - in particular, Irene, who has been a tower of strength and a marvellous recruiter of new members. With her Yorkshire charm, Irene has given the Fern Society of Victoria a name for friendliness. A sincere thank-you, Irene.

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SOME UNUSUAL STOCK AT THE MOMENT

Cryandria rigidula, Qld. Gleichenia microphylla, Vic. Sticherus lobatus, Vic. Gonophlebium subauriculatum var. knightii, Qld.

AUGUST AUDIENCE TREATED TO NEW ZEALAND TRIP

Whilst the number who could participate in the Society's recent two week visit to New Zealand was limited, the rest of the Society was privileged to have the trip's highlights presented to them at the August meeting.

Members were once again envious at the President's photographic prowess, as Chris Goudey treated us to a photographic record of the trip. Chris showed a happy blend of fern and general scenery slides during his talk.

He told us of the tour group's apprehension after the first night's accommodation in their motor camp followed by the bus's heater not functioning on the first day. But these were the only hitches in what proved to be a wonderful trip for the group.

Pen and paper cannot describe the beauty unfolded by the President through his slides. Jet boating on the Shotover River, glaciers, helicopter trips, ricketty suspension bridge - nothing stopped the intrepid Aussie band from enjoying the trip to the fullest.

The tour visit coincided with one of the coldest winters in recent memory. Chris was able to demonstrate this by showing slides of frozen waterfalls and long icicles hanging from tree ferns. "We noticed at Milford Sound, for instance, that ferns which were covered with frost when we went into the Sound in the morning were still covered with frost when we left that afternoon", Chris told us. Many of the ferns and fern allies rarely seen in Australia abound in New Zealand.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the Group's trip was the hospitality shown to them by the Nelson Fern Society. They rolled out the red carpet for our members and showed them through the better ferneries in the area. This was followed by the locals treating the touring members to a night out at the local hotel where the two groups swapped stories over slides of their respective country's ferns.

The stay at Nelson concluded with a trip through one of their better walks, which, being at the extreme limit of the sub-tropical zone in New Zealand, had fern types which the group had not previously seen.

It wouldn't surprise us if the day after Chris's presentation, the New Zealand Tourist Bureau had a spate of enquiries from envious Society members!

ABOUT OUR NEW COVER

We must congratulate Viv Bennett for winning our competition for a new cover photo for our Newsletter.

Viv is past president of the Camberwell Camera Club, and has been awarded the Gold Recognition Medal for services to photography. He is also President of Fellows Group of the R.H.S. and Chairman of the Judges School.

Viv took the photograph in Tarra Valley, Gippsland. Congratulations, Viv! We will be forwarding your prize in the near future.

FERN TALES

Rod Hill recently queried Committee Member Geoff Echberg's frequent purchases of Silver Tree Fern (Cyathea dealbata) from New Zealand.

Geoff admitted to being a better talker than a spore raiser - so has been buying spore phials of this fern and giving them to different members, on the understanding that he gets some prothalli when they germinate!

During a talk at an earlier meeting, Geoff had mentioned that some time ago he had read in a New Zealand gardening book that Maoris had been known in the early days to place pieces of the Silver Tree Fern on tracks with the silver underside uppermost, during raids on other villages.

They claimed that the moonlight reflected from the silvery ferns aided in quick departures with a captured maiden or goods.

The book claimed that a wise chief, on observing the fern frond markers, had picked them up and re-laid them on a path to a cliff. In their haste to escape, the offenders hurried along the false path, and disappeared over the cliff, thus ending their raiding days!

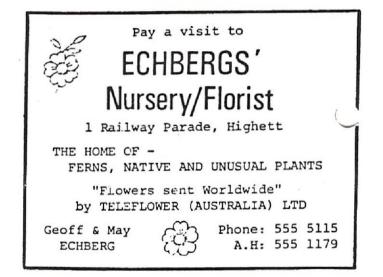
On Saturday and Sunday the 15th and 16th August, Ted and Irene Bolster, yet again, organised and set up a display of ferns. This was a great success, and created a lot of interest at the C.O.E. Boys School, Ringwood.

The display was run by Maroondah S.G.A.P. group. Their display of native ferns was not only very pleasing to the eye, but covered quite a large range of our native ferns.

In addition to that work, Irene and Ted, together with their helpers Rita and Harold Olney, Keith Ross and his father, and Joan and Bill Taylor, recruited 20 possible new mem-ers for our Society, and spread the word to a lot of other people.

Their next effort will be at the Rhododendron Society Gardens at Olinda on October 5th and 6th, 1981.

BILL TAYLOR



* DO YOU HAVE ANY FERN TALES TO TELL? THEN JOT THEM DOWN, AND POST THEM OFF TO KEITH STUBBS, OR KEITH HUTCHINSON (ADDRESSES AT TOP OF PAGE 2).

" STOP PRESS"

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We are pleased to advise that the Society's financial position has now been assessed and that the Society has a credit balance of \$3,910.43 at 30th June 1981. This compares with a credit balance of \$131.96 at 30th June 1981. A full balance sheet will be published when available.

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

OPEN NIGHT SPEAKERS

WILL BE

HAROLD OLNEY BILL TAYLOR CHRIS GOUDEY ALBERT JENKINS

These members will each speak for approximately 10 minutes.

HYMENOPHYLLACEAE

A family of sub-cosmopolitan distribution variously divided into a few or many genera (Allan's Flora of New Zealand Vol.1)

TRICHOMANES (CARDIOMANES) RENIFORME Kidney Fern Maori name: Raurenga

Trichomanes, from the Greek, thrix, fine hair (alluding to the bristle which bears the sporangia and which protrudes from the trumpet-shaped sporangial cup), and manos, soft (referring to the fronds): reniforme, kidney-shaped.

The genus Trichomanes is widely distributed and consists of some 25 species.

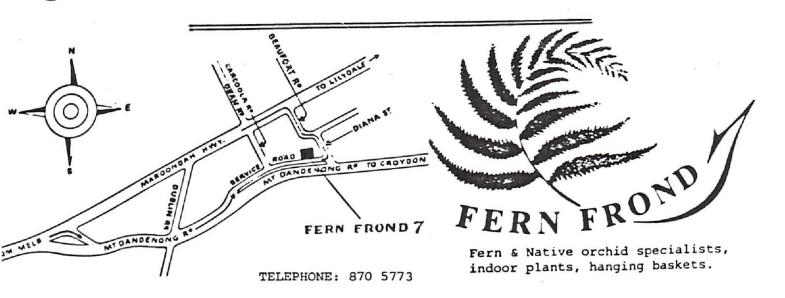
The rhizome is much branched and wide creeping. The kidney-shaped fronds are 6 to 10 cm. broad, dark green, wavy and leathery when mature, light green and translucent when young. It has no rachis and the veins spread out fan-like, often covering the whole margin of the fronds.

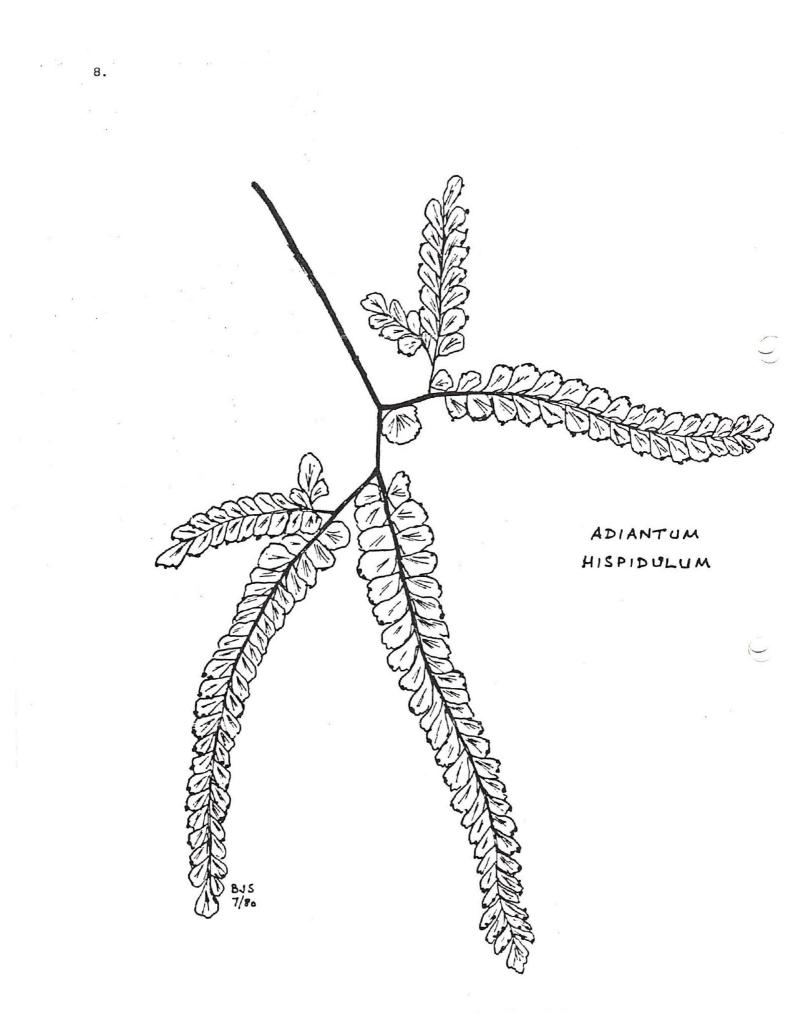
The sori are very numerous, except in the lower part of the frond and sinus (the recess between two lobes or segments).

An interesting point is that a thin hair or bristle which bears the sporangia makes all the difference in the scientific world of ferns, for if it were not for the hair or bristle, the kidney fern would be included in the genus Hymenophyllum, to which the filmy ferns belong.

This most distinctive fern which is a great favourite with everybody is plentiful in damp forests throughout New Zealand, although it is rare on the eastern side of the main divide in the South Island.

(Continued on page 10) ...





ADIANTUM HISPIDULUM SWARTZ

The Rough Maidenhair Fern is almost cosmopolitan in its distribution. It ranges from South Africa through India, Malaya and Indonesia to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, and has also become naturalised in the south eastern United States of America.

In Australia, it occurs in the three eastern states as well as Central Australia. Adiantum hispidulum is a very hardy and extremely variable fern throughout its range. Some forms are tall and straggly in appearance, whereas others often have compact fronds with large overlapping pinnae; one such form has been named Adiantum tenue.

The species Adiantum whitei which occurs throughout Queensland is thought to be a hybrid between Adiantum hispidulum and A. formosum.

Adiantum hispidulum also displays quite a considerable variation in the colour of new frond growth, ranging from an attractive red through various shades of bronze to a pale green.

This fern is often sold in the trade as Adientum pubescens and is easy to cultivate. It will tolerate more exposure than most other species of Maiden Hair and makes an attractive specimen in any fernery.

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HYMENOPHYLLACAE (Cont'd. from page 7)

Although it grows in damp forests it is usually found on a slope, so one can assume that it likes good drainage, as well as a moist atmosphere, a fair amount of light and protection from the wind. Yet despite these basic requirements, the kidney fern grows to perfection on Rangitoto Island where there is no soil at all, just scoria and, admittedly, some humus.

One could imagine hot dry weather could play havoc with such fragile, translucent fronds as those of the kidney fern, but it responds by simply rolling itself up. In midsummer, it is quite common to find a clump of kidney ferns dry and shrivelled-looking, but as soon as rain comes there is a transformation - the fronds unfold and reveal their true pellucid beauty.

Trichomanes reniforme is also known as Cardiomanes reniforme.

Cultivation:

From experience, it seems to me that the kidney fern needs high humidity, good drainage and a fair amount of light. Greatest success can be achieved by growing it in a Wardian case, or in a properly constructed fern house where there is a sprinkler system - unless, of course, one is fortunate enough to have a patch of native bush which would give sufficient protection to enable this remarkable fern to become established.

- DIARY DATES -

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

DECEMBER 10TH

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

HARRY JACKSON

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

TIME OF MEETING: 8 p.m.

VENUE: Burnley Horticultural School Hall, Burnley

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW ... WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

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PREPARED AND PRINTED FOP

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

by



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