



THE FERN
SOCIETY OF
VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We were indeed honoured at our last meeting to have three members of the South Australian Fern Society attend our meeting. They were Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Shard and Mrs. Coral Harmer. Albert Jenkins and I will be the guests of the South Australian Fern Society, this week. I have been invited to be the guest speaker at their September General Meeting. We will both stop over for the weekend after the meeting, and hope to meet as many members of the S.A. Society as possible.

Lorraine, our two girls and I have just returned from two weeks in Fiji, enjoying some tropical sunshine as well as climbing mountains and valleys, seeking ferns. We had a very successful trip, botanically. I was able to find and collect most of the ferns I went looking for.

The highlight of the trip for me was a climb to the top of Fiji's highest mountain. Mount Victoria rises for 4,341 feet above sea level, and is covered with beautiful ferns and mosses, a few of which occur in Australia. One of the most common ferns we saw was *Davallia fejeensis*.

I am grateful for the help we received from the Rangers at the Nadarivatu Forestry Station, and the Botanists at the Fiji Herbarium for their help with a few difficult specimens. I am also particularly grateful to a young Fijian villager called Tom. Tom was my guide on the difficult track to the summit of Mt. Victoria.

We have received copies of "Exotic Ferns in Australia" by D. L. Jones and myself, and they will be on sale at the next meeting - for \$11.50, not \$12.00 as I mentioned in our last Newsletter.

The "Fern Growers' Manual" had not arrived at the time of writing this article, but could still arrive in time, yet.

Keith Stubbs will mention the winners of last month's competition will be a hanging basket. That should give everyone a chance.

The fern chosen for our November competition is a *Phyllitis* (Hearts Tongue Fern).

CHRIS GOUDEY
President

GLASSHOUSE PAINTING TIME

At the September meeting, the Group was reminded by the President that now is the time to paint glasshouses for the hot summer.

The meeting was given Chris Goudey's own paint recipe which consists of:

1. Place three to four gallons of hydrated lime in a five gallon bucket.
2. Water
3. 3/4 gallon of plastic paint.

Chris uses a paint stirrer in his electric drill, and mixes the constituents until a thick but sloppy mixture is obtained. The paint coagulates the mixture. Application is by corrugated paint roller.

According to the President, this mixture will self-destruct during the winter time.

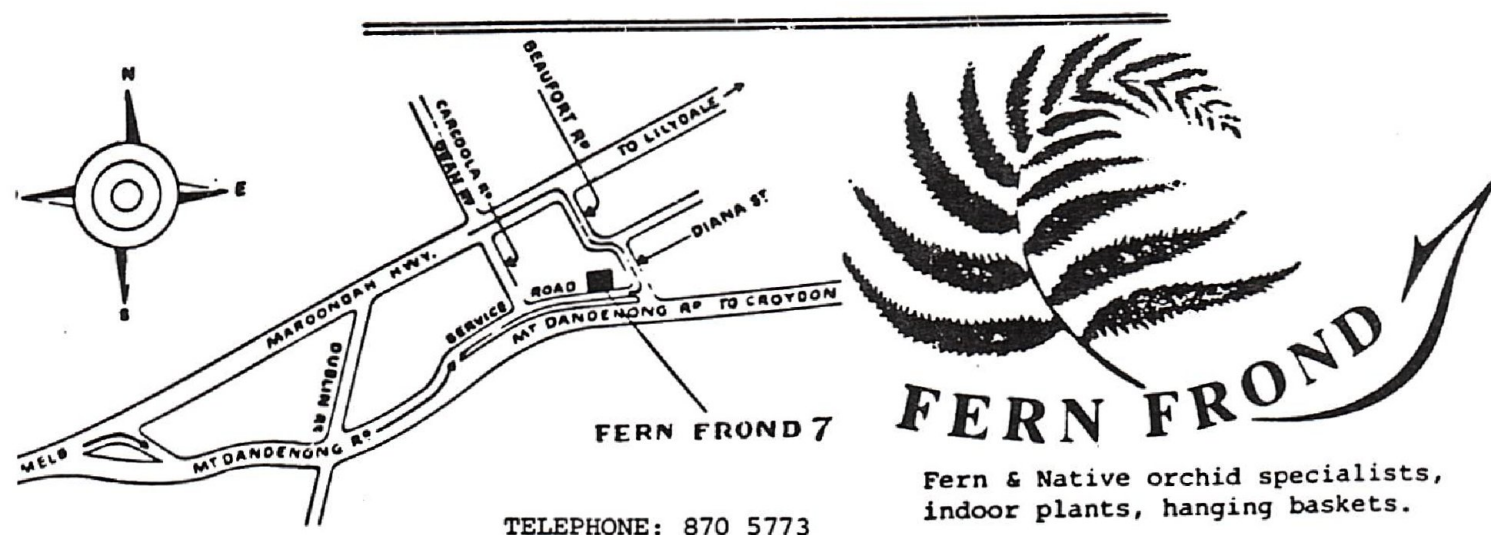
SEPTEMBER COMPETITION WINNERS

The fern chosen for the September competition was Lycopodium (Tassel Fern) and the winners were:

OPEN SECTION:	1. G. Rowe	NOVICE SECTION:	1. K. Craze
	2. M. Bryant		2. A. Bryant
			3. K. Craze

The October competition will be a hanging basket.

During the September meeting, the Secretary outlined that the Committee is looking at revising the competitive activities. Details will be announced shortly.



SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATION NIGHT PROVIDED USEFUL TIPS

Four of the Fern Society's experienced members provided a most informative series of 10 minute demonstrations at the September meeting.

HAROLD OLNEY, BILL TAYLOR, CHRIS GOUDEY and ALBERT JENKINS again proved what a wealth of information and experience is held by our members.

Leading off the team was former monthly meeting speaker, Harold Olney, with a detailed demonstration rig of fern propagation. The rig was previously used at the Fern Society's display at the S.G.A.P. show in August and was ideally suited for beginners.

In his introductory remarks, Harold traced propagation from the spore stage through to growing spore in different containers. This developed into a propagation of breaking out young plants and went into rhizome propagation by various methods. As usual, Harold's demonstration was most professional and helpful to members and, due to the size of the rig, members benefited most from discussions with Harold after the meeting.

Second cab off the rank was Bill Taylor, who covered backing of Platyceriums. Bill demonstrated how platyceriums outgrow themselves and he overcomes these problems in the platycerium's early stages of development by mounting it on cork. When they are big enough, he then transfers the platycerium with its cork backing to hardwood as hardwood does not rot as easily as pineboard and other pressed timbers.

Bill fascinated the audience with his easily extendable back board. His method is to use Tongue & Grooved flooring boards. As the platycerium grows, so he adds another flooring width; being tongue and grooved is a most suitable way of extending the backing during the growth cycle of the platycerium and producing a suitable, flat back.

Tying the platycerium on to the backing requires care. Bill told us that he uses old plastic coated wire which is much kinder to the plants.

One of the difficulties that Bill finds in growing platyceriums on 1" pots is that they tend to rot on substances such as Peat Moss. He uses a very sandy mixture with a consistency of approximately 75% sand, and a mixture of leaf mould to add a little humus. After about twelve months on the pots they have developed a very good root system.

Necessity is the mother of invention - and a very cunning method employed by Bill to water platyceriums in hot weather was demonstrated. He overcomes the problem of pushing the hose into the platycerium and disturbing the backing by employing the Coolgardie Safe method. He hangs a small tin over the fern with a cloth wick running from the tin to the fern, allowing the water to feed slowly into the fern. A very cunning idea!

President Chris Goudey then dealt with aspects of collecting and pressing fern fronds, punctuating his talk with most impressive specimens which had been pressed by him seven years ago.

Chris uses several sizes of presses and is seldom without one on his trips gathering ferns. The press he demonstrated to the meeting incorporated flat masonite with 2" x 1" battens. In this smaller press he uses disposable hand towels to extract water from the ferns, but suggested that the ideal drying medium is large sheets of blotting paper.

Continued on next page

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

In his large press, Chris uses only newspaper. He alternates two sheets on the press, places the fronds on the second sheet, adds another two sheets of newspaper and then repeats the process with as many different specimens as need to be pressed.

At least every second day or so, he replaces the top sheet, leaving the frond on the bottom sheet. "G" clamps or bandages from old car tyre tubes provide sufficient tension to create suitable pressure in the press.

During question time, Chris pointed out that the time required to dry out and press fronds varies considerably - from two days for filmy ferns to several weeks for some other varieties.

While Chris favours Elastoplast type bandage to fix the fern fronds on to the backing sheet, other methods which can be used are clear stamp hinges, glue or copper wire.

The final demonstration for the night was given by Vice-President, Albert Jenkins. He showed the meeting a most intriguing method to overcome ferns drying out inside the house, by using the double potting method.

Dry ferns is one of the most difficult problems facing fern lovers who wish to grow ferns inside the house. Giving the fern humidity in the right place - around the plant - is the key to successful indoor fern growing, according to Albert. Double potting allows for this great humidity for both heated, unheated or airconditioned rooms.

Albert's double potting method is:


1. Place sufficient wet charcoal in the bottom of outer pot so that when second pot is inserted both tops are level.
2. Lightly press Spagnum Moss into the remaining space between the two pots.
3. Keep the Spagnum Moss damp - this is the secret. As the outer pot warms up it draws in air from its base which then circulates around the side through the moss, giving the plant perfect humidity.
4. Water is required about every 3rd or 4th day depending on the room temperature, and a good way of keeping charcoal wet is to place the outer pot on a bit of wet sand.

Albert concluded his demonstration by showing us ferns which have been grown using his double potting method. These ferns, which previously had deteriorated badly in winter time, thrived and were in excellent condition after the recently completed winter.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS WHO MAY WISH TO CONTACT COUNTRY OR INTERSTATE MEMBERS WHEN TRAVELLING.

COST OF MAILING LIST IS \$1.00, INCLUDING HANDLING CHARGES.

THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM OUR SECRETARY.



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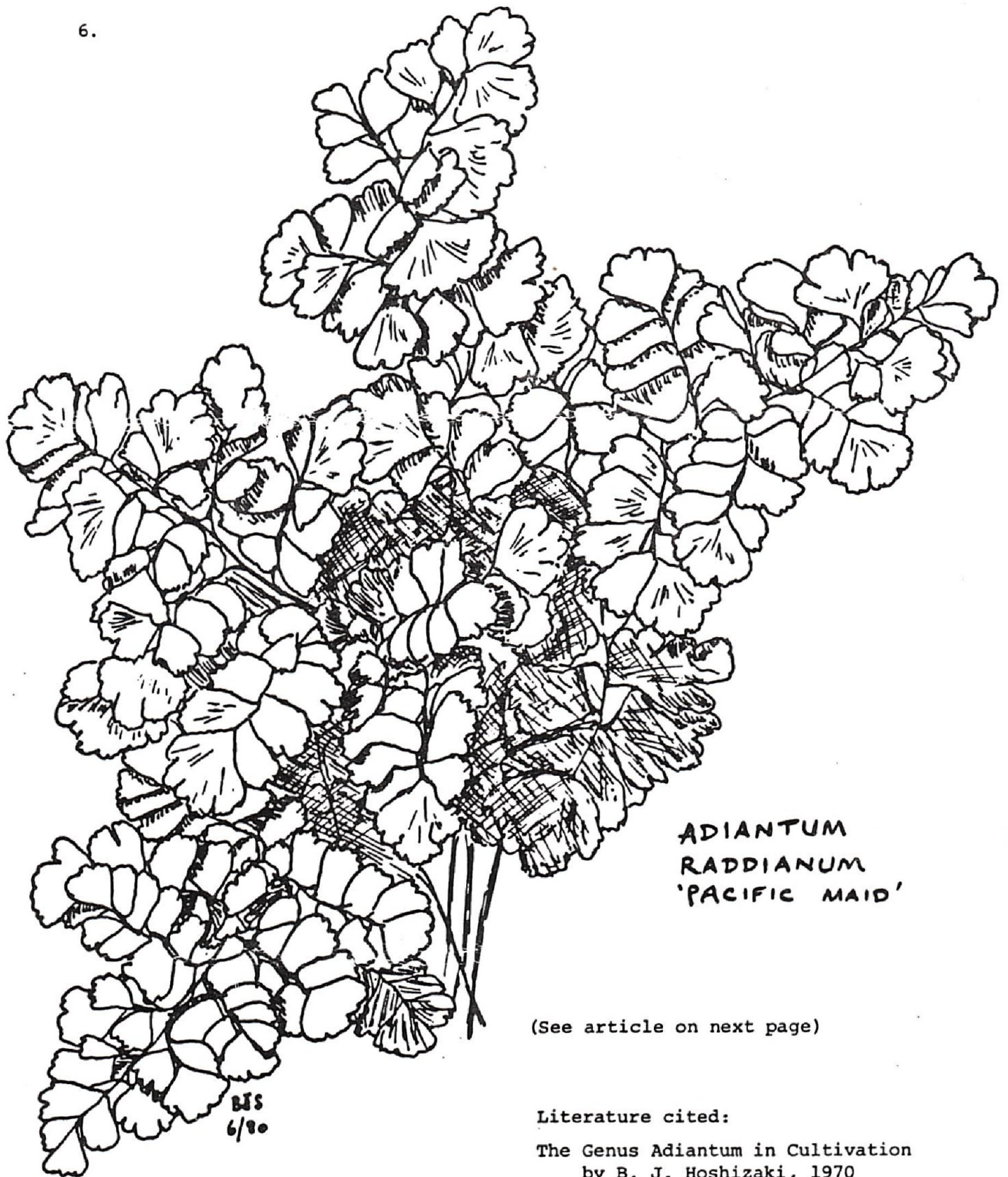
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ADIANTUM
RADDIANUM
'PACIFIC MAID'

(See article on next page)

Literature cited:

The Genus Adiantum in Cultivation
by B. J. Hoshizaki, 1970

Fern Growers' Manual
by B. J. Hoshizaki, 1975

Exotic Ferns in Australia
by D.L. Jones & C.J. Goudey, 1981

Exotica
by A. B. Graf, 1976

BJS
6/80

ADIANTUM RADDIANUM cv 'PACIFIC MAID'

by Chris Goudey

The species *A. raddianum* is native to the American Tropics, and was formerly known as *A. cuneatum*.

From this species no less than forty named cultivars have been produced; some have occurred in the wild, but the majority have been bred in Fern Nurseries around the world.

All the cultivars of *A. raddianum* are quite hardy and will flourish in an unheated glasshouse or sunroom where they can receive plenty of light and some humidity. Some of the larger leaf cultivars will grow in a damp sheltered rockery or fernery; these include cv *Majus* or cv *Frograns*, etc.

The cultivar 'Pacific Maid' is most attractive, with stiff upright fronds and large ovate pinnae. The pinnae are so broad that in most cases they overlap each other. This fern is similar in appearance to cv 'Weigandii' and cv 'Lady Geneva'; however, the pinnae on cv *Weigandii* are not quite as large and the new growth is quite colourful, whereas the new growth on cv 'Pacific Maid' comes up a pale green. The cv *Lady Geneva* is much the same, except that it has a contorted and flattened rachis, and the frond is usually crested.

This fern is common in cultivation in Victoria, and it reproduces true from spores. It is a difficult fern to divide, as it grows on slow creeping rhizome and never seems to form a large clump that will break up easily.

Adiantum cv 'Pacific Maid' makes a very attractive specimen in a basket or pot, preferring a light open medium with good drainage and a little lime added to the mix.

Maxicrop

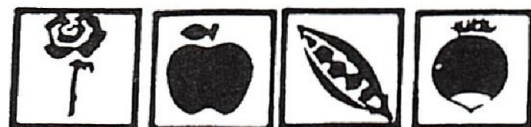
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Sydney, NSW 2000. Phone: (02) 235 8100.



COMING EVENTS AND SHOWS

by Keith Stubbs

Saturday, October 17th, and Sunday, October 18th, 1981

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA - FIELD DAY

The Fern Society of Victoria will be represented at the event with a display. Bill Taylor is co-ordinating our activities, and needs some assistance over the two days. If you can help, please see him.

THE FIELD DAY WILL BE HELD AT JELLS PARK, WAVERLEY

Sunday, December 6th, 1981

WANGARATTA GARDEN CLUB - PREMIER POT PLANT SHOW FOR 1981 - 12 noon to 6.00 p.m.

Section 7 of the competition covers Ferns with 6 classes -

Adiantum, Davallia, Polypodium, Nephrolepis, Asplenium, General

Details are available from the Secretary of the Fern Society.

SPRING SHOWS:

More than a young man's fancy stirs in Spring, and we have been advised of several shows:

Saturday, 17th October, 1981

Croydon Horticultural Society and Garden Club - 60th Annual Spring Flower Show
2.30 - 9.00 p.m.

Saturday, 24th October, 1981

Box Hill Horticultural Society - Spring Show - 2.30 - 8.30 p.m.

Preston Garden Club - Flower and Vegetable Spring Show - 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 24th and 25th October, 1981

Mt. Macedon & District Horticultural Society - Spring Flower Show
10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. daily

Sunday, 25th October, 1981

Broadmeadows & District Garden Club - Garden Festival - Broadmeadows Town Hall.
10 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. The Festival will be an "all garden" show consisting of nursery displays, club and society displays and garden products. Door takings will be donated to the International Year of Disabled Persons.

NORTH BALWYN FERNERY

91 DONCASTER ROAD, NORTH BALWYN

Ring Greg - 859 9330 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Monday - Saturday

- * LARGE RANGE OF NATIVE AND EXOTIC SPECIES
- * ADVICE ON GROWING AND LANDSCAPING FERNERIES

NOTES FROM THE SPORE BANK

by Rod Hill

My thanks again to the many members who have continued to provide slide boxes for the spore bank. My supplies are now sufficient to allow me to extend the range of spore available to members by mail.

Listed below are species in short supply (in some cases one or two capsules only), some simply because stock is running out, but in other cases, rarer overseas species. These species may now be ordered by mail, along with species listed in the August newsletter, but a supplementary list should be included in case species from the list below run out.

Payment for orders, either in the form of postage stamps (24¢ stamps preferred if possible) or by cheque (payable to "Fern Society of Victoria") should include 20¢ for each species requested, plus 40¢ for packaging and postage.

NOTE: Self-addressed envelopes are no longer required, but please PRINT your name and address CLEARLY on your letter.

SPECIES IN SHORT SUPPLY:

- ACROSTICHUM AUREUM(8-79)
 ADIANTUM ANCEPS(5-80)
 CAPILLUS-VENERIS(1-81)
 DIAPHANUM(5-80)
 FORMOSUM(5-80)
 MACROPHYLLUM(4-81)
 MATTHEWSII(3-80)
 RADIIANUM 'BRIDAL VEIL'(4-81)
 RADIIANUM 'FRAGRANTISSIMUM'(8-80)
 RADIIANUM 'MIST'(8-80)
 RADIIANUM 'TRIUMPH'(8-80)
 RADIIANUM 'VARIEGATUM'(3-81)
 TENERUM 'SCUTUM ROSEA'(10-80)
 SP.(PUBESCENS?)(6-80)
 SP.(S.E.QLI)(5-80)
 ANOMORPHA MEYENIANA(12-79)
 MIA OREGANA(11-80)
 TOMENTOSA(11-80)
 ASPLENIUM EXCISUM(8-81)
 PELUCIUM(7-80)
 TRICHOMANES(6-80)
 TRICHOMANES(USA)(8-81)
 ASPLENIOSORUS PINNATIFIDIUS(HYBRID)(10-80)
 ATHYRIUM DISTENTIFOLIUM(?)
 FILIX-FEMINA 'VICTORIAE'('80)
 NIPONICUM(9-80)
 PYCNOCARPON(?)
 BELVISIA MUCRONATA('78)
 BLECHNUM VULCANICUM(3-80)
 BOLBITIS QUOYANA(10-80)
 CAMPYLONEURON PHYLLITIDIS(5-80)
 CHINGIA FEROX(12-80)
 CIROTIIUM CUMINGII(10-80)
 REGALE(5-80)
 CYATHEA ATROX(7-81)
 BAILEYANA(4-81)
 CALLOSA(12-79)
 INTEGRAL(12-78)
 NUFIFERI(7-81)
 FUJICHERIMIA(3-81)
 ROBERTSONIANA(4-81)
 SP.ROBERTSONII(?)
 CYSTOPTERIS DICKIEANA(?)
 DENNSTAEDTIA DAVALLIOIDES(3-80)
 DOODIA CAUDATA(4-80)
 DORYOPTERIS PEDATA(11-80)
 DRYOPTERIS AUSTRIACA(?)
 CAMPYLOPTERA('80)
 CARTHUSIANA(?)
 SPINULOSA(?)
 VILLARII(?)
 WALLICHIANA('80)
 SP.(DREADES?)(6-80)
 GLEICHENIA DICARPA(11-80)
 MICROPHYLLA(10-80)
 HYPOLEPIS AUSTRALIS(1-81)
 LASTREOPSIS TINARODENSIS(1-80)
 LEPTOPTERIS FRASERI(1-80)
 LLAVEA CORDIFOLIA(11-79)
 METATHELYPTERIS SINGALANENSIS(12-80)
 MICROSORIUM DIVERSIFOLIUM(2-80)
 NEPHROLEPIS BISERRATA(12-79)
 DICKSONIOIDES(?)
 HIRSUTULA(4-80)
 OSMUNDA REGALIS(CONTORTED)(12-79)
 PHYLLITIS SCOLOPENDRIUM(6-81)
 POLYPODIUM AUREUM GLAUCUM(1-80)
 SANCTAE-ROSAE(4-80)
 VULGARE(10-78)
 SP.(VULGARE?)(6-80)
 POLYSTICHUM ANDERSONII(?)
 BRAUNII(8-78)
 MUNITUM 'IMBRICANS'('80)
 SCOPULINUM('78)
 SETIFERUM 'FALCATUM DYCE'(?)
 PTERIS CRETICA 'DISTINCTION'(4-81)
 CRETICA 'RIVERTONIANA'('80)
 MULTIFIDA(?)
 PYRROSIA LONGIFOLIA(7-80)
 RUMOHRA ADTANTIFORMIS(EXOTIC)(1-81)
 SPHAEROSTEPHANUS LASTREUIDES(?)
 STICHERUS LORATUS(2-80)
 SYNGRAMMA ALISMIFOLIA(12-80)
 TECTARIA MUELLERI(7-80)
 THELYPTERIS LAXA(8-77)
 OMEIENSIS(6-79)

CONTINUED OVERLEAF ...

NOTES FROM THE SPORE BANK (Cont'd.)

In addition, the following new (or updated) species may be added to the regular spore list:

ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA 'CRISTATA'(8-81)	DRYOPTERIS ACROSTICHOIDES(7-81)
ATHYRIUM THELYPTEROIDES(7-81)	DRYOPTERIS INTERMEDIA(7-81)
BLECHNUM WATTSII(6-81)	DRYOPTERIS MARGINALIS(7-81)
CYATHEA CAPENSIS(?)	GLEICHENIA RUPESTRIS(8-81)
CYATHEA CELERICA(8-81)	LASTREOPSIS (RUFESCENS?)(8-81)
CYATHEA DECURRENS(3-81)	LASTREOPSIS (TENERA?)(8-81)
CYATHEA PHYSOLEPIDOTA(7-81)	LASTREOPSIS SP.(N.QLD)(8-81)
CYATHEA REBECCAE(8-81)	MICROLEPIA SP.(N.QLD)(8-81)
CYSTOPTERIS BULBIFERA(8-81)	OSMUNDA CLAYTONIANA(7-81)
DICKSONIA YOUNGIAE(N.Q. FORM)(8-81)	PITYROGRAMMA CALOMELANOS(8-81)
DICKSONIA YOUNGIAE(S.Q. FORM)(8-81)	PTERIS PACIFICA(8-81)
	SPHAEROSTEPHANOS HETEROCARPUS(8-81)

NOTE: The Dicksonia youngiae previously available from the spore bank was the south-eastern Queensland form.

MORE ABOUT EARTHWORMS

by Keith Hutchinson

The family of earthworms is quite large, and their distribution around the world is very extensive, ranging from the tropics to extreme northern and southern latitudes. Arctic and sub-Arctic regions do not share with the rest of the world these creatures, as the ground may be frozen to great depths over long periods of time thus causing their death.

In size, we find they range from small worms of microscopic dimensions to giant annelids measuring from three feet to eleven feet long. In South America, Africa, Ceylon and Australia we find the larger members of the family and here in Australia we have the largest of the giant worms, Megascolides australis by name, authentic measurements being up to eleven feet in length. Seems incredible to us.

Where warmth and moisture are more constant, we have more species living and procreating, but whatever the size, name or habitat, earthworms have one important characteristic in common, and that is they swallow the earth with all it contains, and in the process of digestion and elimination excrete practically neutral humus, topsoil rich in water-soluble nutrients for plant life.

NOEL FITTS WILL BE OUR SPEAKER AT OUR OCTOBER 8TH MEETING. HE WILL BE SPEAKING ON SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS, GENERAL NURSERY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING GREENHOUSES AND WATERING.

WITH SUMMER JUST AROUND THE CORNER, THIS SUBJECT IS SURE TO BE OF INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS.

WANTED TO BUY:

Mrs. Freshwater, of 62 Queen Street, Rosedale, would like to purchase a quantity of *Lygodium japonicum*, either in tubes or larger pots.

If you can help, please contact Mrs. Freshwater direct.

- DIARY DATES -

NOVEMBER 12TH

HARRY JACKSON

DECEMBER 10TH

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

Time of meetings: 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.

PREPARED AND PRINTED FOR

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

by

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