

#### OFFICE-BEARERS:

PRESIDENT: Chris Goudey, Lot 8, Cozens Road, Lara, 3212. Tel. (052) 82 2154 VICE-PRESIDENT: Albert Jenkins, 11 Morwell Avenue, Watsonia, 3087. Tel. 435 3863 VICE-PRESIDENT: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084. Tel. 459 9716 TREASURER: Jean Trudgeon, 13 Eden Street, West Heidelberg, 3081. Tel. 459 4859 SECRETARY: Keith Stubbs, 14 Afton Street, Essendon, 3040 BOOK SALES: Lorraine Goudey, Lot 8, Cozens Road, Lara, 3212. Tel. (052) 82 2154 EDITOR: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084. Tel. 459 9716 SPORE BANK MANAGER: Rod Hill, 41 Kareela Road, Frankston, 3199 LIBRARIAN: Bill Taylor, C/- Capital Laboratory Pty. Ltd., Rm. 307,

220 Collins Street, Melbourne (Manchester Unity Building) PUBLICITY OFFICER: Geoff Echberg, 1 Railway Parade, Highett, 3190, Tel. 555 5115

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It is good to see the Spring growth on all my ferns - the beautiful reds, and ambers, and various shades of green. The most fascinating of all is the great flushes of fronds coming out of what was once a dormant stump of Osmunda Fibre.

At our last meeting, Albert Jenkins gave a report of our trip to Adelaide as guests of the South Australian Fern Society. Keith Stubbs has also made mention of it in his report in this issue.

The Society members put on a beautiful spread in our honour after the meeting, and we were able to mix with members and make new friends. We can learn a lot from how other Societies run their meetings; we have brought back a few ideas to discuss around the committee table.

On the Saturday night, one of the Society members put on a barbeque and we were invited along with other members. We had a very enjoyable evening. Albert and I headed for home on the Sunday, with fond memories, and a car full of ferns. Also at our last meeting, I gave a talk and showed slides of our recent fern-collecting trip to Fiji.

My congratulations to Geoff Echberg for his excellent article in the 'Sunday Observer' a few weeks ago, giving publicity for the Fern Society.

The fern for our November competition is a Phyllitis (Heart's Tongue), and a Pteris (Brake Fern) has been chosen for the December meeting.

#### Books:

We have the following books for sale on our book sales table.

To make things easier for Lorraine, and to ensure that your book arrives in good condition, we will now be using 'Jiffy' bags.

Details of book titles, pricing, posting and packaging are listed below.

> CHRIS GOUDEY President

Doctoro C pockaning

			Postage & packaging			
Title	Author	Price	ice (with		in Victoria)	
Australian Ferns and						
Fern Allies	Jones & Clemesha	\$15.40	please	add	\$2.05	
Exotic Ferns in Australia	Jones & Goudey	\$11.50			\$2.05	
Fern Growers' Manual	B. J. Hoshizaki	\$ 9.00			\$2.10	
Growing Ferns	Ray Best	\$ 3.20	"	п	\$1.40	
Ferns of Victoria and						
Tasmania	N. A. Wakefield	\$ 3.00		"	\$1.30	
Ferns for Modern Living	Davenport & Pike	\$ 2.60			\$1.30	
Ferns and Clubmosses		\$ 1.75	"		\$1.00	

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### by KEITH STUBBS

# President & Vice-President at S.A. Fern Society:

Chris Goudey and Albert Jenkins visited the September meeting of the South Australian Fern Society.

The two Societies have enjoyed several social contacts previously, with the South Australians having joined us on trips to the Otways and Tarra Valley.

Albert reported on the trip, and praised the hosts for their hospitality. He said that the South Australians hope to have more of our members along at future meetings.

Chris was presented with a special plant microscope. This National brand Light Scope has its own light source and 30 time magnification. If you are interested, Albert Jenkins can obtain these for members at \$21.50 each.

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#### October Competition Winners:

Open Section:		Novice Section:	
lst C.	& Y. Goudey	lst	G. Stagoll
2nd C.	& Y. Goudey	2nd	J. Dickinson
3rd M.	Bryant	3rd	A. Bryant

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#### Thanks:

To Bernie Coleman who has volunteered to tape the November speaker's address as the Secretary will be absent. Many thanks for volunteering, Bernie.

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#### November Speaker:

Following his excellent reception last year, we are pleased to advise that the November speaker is Harry Jackson. A most enjoyable and informative evening is assured on Thursday 12th November, at 8 p.m. - Burnley Horticultural School Hall, Buinley.

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December Spectacular!!

To wind up the year with a BANG, special activities will take place at our Christmas meeting on Thursday, 10th December:

- (a) <u>MEET THE FORUM</u>: For the first time in its 2½ years' existence, the Society will conduct a forum for members. Panellists for the evening will be Chris Goudey, Rod Hill, Albert Jenkins, Harold Olney and Keith Hutchinson, with Keith Stubbs as the Panel Moderator. So bring along your questions.
- (b) FERN FAVOURITES: Bring along your favourite or special fern, and let's fill the hall with ferns.
- (c) <u>HAMPER</u>: Again, we will be raffling a great Christmas Hamper. Donations for the Hamper should be given to our Treasurer, Jean Trudgeon. Make that diary note NOW -10th December.

3.

GREENHOUSES & GREENHOUSE EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOME GARDENER A resume of the talk given by Mr. Bob Campbell at our October meeting

Selecting your greenhouse is the most important decision you will have to make regarding the growing of plants.

This is the message which Bob Campbell, our October speaker, gave to our meeting. Mr. Campbell is Managing Director of Sprinkler Installations Pty. Ltd., Moorabbin. During his address, he pointed out some of the main features to be considered:

- 1. The greenhouse must have adequate ventilation.
- 2. The greenhouse should be structurally designed to enable you to hang baskets from hanging rails, etc.
- The greenhouse should be made of a material which will give long life -- for example, steel, aluminium, treated pine timber.
- 4. The greenhouse should have ample nead room. It is much easier to control the environment in a greenhouse that has a reasonably high roof and to avoid claustrophobia.
- 5. The greenhouse should also be designed to enable you to make extensions, to increase the size, either on the back or front.

#### Siting your greenhouse:

The siting of your greenhouse needs careful consideration. Poor siting means that your greenhouse will be unable to produce the best results. The greenhouse should be sited to make maximum use of the sun, especially in winter.

It is recommended to site your greenhouse with ridge running north and south if possible. Try to site it where it can be protected from cooling winds, and as near to power and water as possible to avoid excessive installation costs.

#### Types of cladding for your greenhouse:

1.	Glass	4.	Acryflute sheet
2.	Fibreglass	5.	Polyflute U.V. stabilised
3.	Tuflite	6.	Polythene film - U.V. stabilised

#### Equipment available for your greenhouse:

1.	Shadecloth	7. CO, generators	
2.	Sun shade paint	8. Própagation beds	

- 3. Watering systems 9. Benches (flat top, wire mesh and tiered)
- 4. Ventilating fans 10. Potting benches
- 5. Evaporative cooling
- 11. Humidity sensors
- 6. Heating
  - Heat syphons
- 1. Shadecloth A shadecloth frame should be built over the top of your greenhouse and the gap between the shadcloth and the roof should be a minimum of 200 mm. This gives the best results for cooling your greenhouse. If the shadecloth is placed directly onto the surface of the cladding of your roof, this will result in increased temperature inside the house.

(Continued on next page)

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- 2. <u>Sun shade paint</u> Sun shade paint may be used in place of shadecloth. This material is especially designed to either spray on your greenhouse or to be rolled on with conventional paint rollers.
- 3. Watering systems There are many types of sprays available that can be fitted in to the greenhouse and operated manually or automatically. A sprinkler system is desirable in a greenhouse, because this will enable you to use the sprays for cooling your plants during the summer months. A cooling programme using fine sprays could be set up automatically using a time clock.
- 4. Ventilating fans It is very important when growing any type of plant that you must have adequate air circulation in your greenhouse. This is as important in the winter as in the summer months. If you have selected a greenhouse with continuous ridge ventilation, it is necessary to ensure that air is circulating at bench level. This can be achieved by using circulating fans under benches, bringing in fresh air to the greenhouse. This will also keep the CO<sub>2</sub> levels up to the desired amount of approx. 300 parts per million. If your greenhouse has poor ventilation and no air circulation, the CO<sub>2</sub> levels will drop drastically. Sample CO<sub>2</sub> levels have been taken in a greenhouse with poor ventilation as low as 50 parts per million. The plants in this greenhouse were not healthy plants.
- 5. <u>Evaporative cooling</u> During the hot summer months in Australia, it is often desirable to cool a greenhouse more than what can be achieved from shadecloth. If this is decided upon, then evaporative cooling should be employed.
- 6. Heating There are several forms of heating:
  - (a) Convection heating, e.g. tubular electric heaters
  - (b) Finned tube heaters using hot water pumped through small bore copper pipe
    - (c) Gas fired tube heaters
    - (d) Electric fan heaters
  - (e) Fans blowing over hot water coils.
- 7. <u>CO<sub>2</sub> Generators</u> If additional CO<sub>2</sub> is required, then there are two ways to achieve this.
  - (a) By burning L.P. gas in a special burner
  - (b) By injecting CO2 through a regulator.

It is desirable to inject the CO<sub>2</sub> gas and burn the CO<sub>2</sub> generator during daylight hours, as the plants reap no benefit other than during those hours.

- 8. <u>Propagating beds</u> For the small to medium growers, extra low voltage electric propagating beds are available.
- 9. Benches When selecting benches for your greenhouse or shadehouse, air circulation should be considered a top priority, because of fungus disease that can grow on benches and so transfer to your plants.
- 10. Potting benches It is a must to have a potting bench in your greenhouse or at least in the vicinity of your greenhouse, so when potting up, materials can be placed in a confined area preventing spilling over the edges and also enabling material to be mixed on the bench without wastage.

(Continued overleaf)

- 11. <u>Humidity sensors</u> The humidity level of the greenhouse is most important, especially when fans are employed to change the air. When air is moving through the greenhouse, evaporation takes place at a fairly high rate. This, of course, has the effect of cooling as in evaporative cooling, so the humidity level will fall. To raise the humidity level you would need to hose down the floor of the greenhouse. A greenhouse growing plants of most types would require to be between 68% and 75% humidity.
- 12. <u>Heat syphons</u> To help conserve energy for heating a greenhouse, a new development has been employed. A very small fan and short length of poly. duct have been attached together and placed up in a high position in the ceiling of the greenhouse, room or building for that matter, the heat is recylced down to floor level by means of a small fan drawing this heat from ceiling level and pushing it back down where it is required. It is pushed down to where the plant can benefit most.

Figures show that heat syphons save approximately 30% of initial energy required to heat the greenhouse. Heat syphons also give good air circulation in the greenhouse.

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#### FERN DISPLAYS

# by Irene Bolster

On two recent occasions, the Fern Society has been brought to the notice of many people with the displays mounted at the Rhododendron Show at Olinda and also the R.H.S.V. family days at Jells Park.

The massed display at Olinda showed how decorative ferns can be, and the sales of spores were most rewarding for the effort that Rod Hill had put into organising the capsules, etc. Rita and Harold Olney and Joan and Bill Taylor joined with us, to make it a very happy weekend, as well as a worthwhile one.

In spite of the cold weather with a most unwelcome S.E. wind, Bill and Joan Taylor organised a most interesting and pleasing display at Jells park.

The second day provided better conditions and, once again, the team of Olneys, Taylers and Bolsters, together with June and Bernice (who graduated as



Fern Seller 1st Class) had an enjoyable time together.

These shows and displays need a fair bit of organisation and time, but we hope the benefit to the Society makes it worthwhile.

#### PEANUT SHELLS

THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF PEANUT SHEELS ARE VERY GOOD AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO PEAT MOSS IN POTTING MIXES.

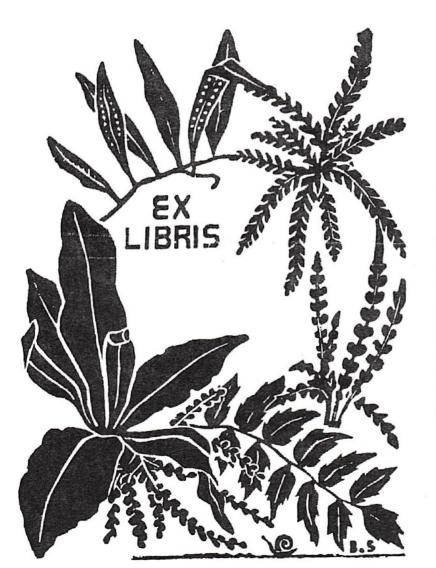
The Department of Agriculture, Victoria, Horticultural Research Institute, has released a preliminary assessment of extensive testing they are doing on peanut shells. The following information is an extract from that report.

"The coarser grade of peanut shells are good for improving porosity, drainage, aeration and water penetration of mixtures which contain soil. The water holding capacity is approximately 2½ times, making it suitable for mixing with materials with a poor water capacity such as coarse sand. We found the peanut shells to mix well with other materials provided they were damped down initially. Once mixed, they bind well with other materials.

The pH is 5.6 (near neutral) which is slightly acid, but certainly not harmful to most species. Germination tests with indicator plants have shown no signs of any plant toxins.

In general, the peanut shells in mixtures produced saleable plants of good size and colour, which compared well with plants grown in peat moss. On the whole, we consider that peanut shells are a promising substitute for peat moss."

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#### BOOKPLATE

Barry Stagoll, who does the excellent line drawings for our newsletter, has very kindly produced a specially designed book nameplate for insertion in our fern books.

These will be printed in green on white/cream, and will be available just prior to Christmas, at just 25¢ each.

A proof of the design is alongside this notice - we think you'll agree that it is delightful.

To help us estimate the approximate numbers required, we would be pleased if members would let us know at the November meeting if they are interested in purchasing some of these nameplates. FROM "THE HERALD" - Thursday, October 15th, 1981

# The Boston fern goes gold

A business trip to the USA in 1978 by a Melbourne n u r s e r y m a n proved to hold more than the opportunity to visit American establishments of horticultural interest

In the Chicago area, Rod Dawson of Scots burn Nursery, was enchanted by a small tray of young fern plants bearing dazzling golden foliage Now, after much discussion and hard work, this beautiful golden Boston fern, known as Fandancer, has been released for public sale

The plant is a patented variety, and much has been done to ensure it is of high standard and quite different to other ferns on the market

It was imported, quarantined and propagated into saleable quantities by Mn Daw son and his associates who believe this new ariety to be outstand ing Fandancer is a superb new variety of Boston fern, known b o t a n i c a l l y a s Nephrolepis exaltata bostoniensis aurea' Quite a mouthful, so its trade name may be easier to use and re member

Fandancer has beautiful golden fronds and is ideally suited to hanging baskets and large containers where its true attraction can be appreciated It will perform best in well it spots but will grow satisfactorily in moder ate light

### LIKES DRYNESS

Unlike most ferns, Fandancer does not require vast quantities of water prefering to be kept reasonably dry, although regular watering will be necessary in warmer weather

Initially, about 50,000 plants will be available through large nurseries specialising in ferns and house plants However, if you experience difficulty obtaining a plant, contact Scotsburn Nursery, which is wholesale only Mr Dawson should be able to inform you of the nearest retailer with stock.



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.

# 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

The new Boston fern called Fandancer ideal for hanging baskets.

New instructions for purchasing spore from the spore bank:

Spore samples may be purchased at monthly meetings, or by sending a list of your requirements with 20¢ for each species requested, <u>plus</u> 40¢ for packaging and postage, to Mr. R. Hill, 41 Kareela Road, Frankston, Victoria, 3119.

Payment for orders may be by postage stamps (24¢ stamps preferred where possible) or by cheque (payable to "Fern Society of Victoria").

Most species from the list published in last month's newsletter are still available, but if ordering from this list, please include a supplementary list in case some species run out.

Note: Self-addressed envelopes are no longer required, but please PRINT your name CLEARLY on your order.

ACRUSTICHUM SPECIOSUM(10-80) ADIANTUM AETHIOPICUM(1-81) CAUDATUM( 6-80) CONCINNUM(10-79) GRACILLIMUM(7-80) PERUVIANUM(4-81) RADITANUM 'ELEGANS'(8-80) RADDIANUM 'MULTICEPS'(8-80) RADDIANUM 'SLEEPING BEAUTY'(3-81) SYLVATICUM(8-80) TENERUM 'FERGUSSONII'(8-80) SP.(S.E.QLD)(10-81) AMPHINEURON OFULENTUM(2-81) ANOGRAMMA LEPTOPHYLLA(11-80) ARACHNIODES ARISTATA(8-80) ARISTATA VARIGATA(2-80) -1. ENIUM AUSTRALASICUM( 6-81 ) BULBIFERUM (NATIVE)(12-80) FLABELLIFOLIUM(11-80) NIDUS(10-80) SCLEROPRIUM(7-80) ATHYRIUM ALPESTRE AMERICANUM(8-80) FILIX-FEMINA (CRISTATA(8-81) -THELYPTEROIDES(7-81) BELVISIA REVOLUTA(7-81) BLECHNUM AMBIGUUM(1-80) ARTICULATUM(11-80) CAMFIELDII(7-80) CARTILAGINEUM( 5-81 ) CHAMBERSII(3-80) DISCOLOR(12-79) FLUVIATILE(4-80) GIBBUM(4-81) MINUS( 8-80 ) NUDUM( 7-30 ) OCCIDENTALE(5-80) ORIENTALE(12-79) PATERSONII(7-80) PENNA-MARINA(1-81) SPICANT(7-80) WATTSII(3-81) WHELANI(7-80) SP.(KING IS)(12-79)

CHEILANTHES DISTANS(1-81) TENUIFOLIA(11-79) SP.(S.E.QLD)(1-81) CHRISTELLA DENTATA(3-81) PARASITICA(5-80) CHRISTIOPTERIS VARIENS(4-80) CIBOTIUM SCHIEDEI(12-78) -COLYSIS AMPLA(1-80) CULCITA DUBIA(3-80) CYATHEA AUSTRALIS(10-80) BROWNII(2-80) CAPENSIS(?) CELEBICA(8-81) CONTAMINANS(12-79) COOPERI(2-81) CUNNINGHAMII(2-80) \_\_\_\_ × DEALBATA(7-80) DECURRENS(3-81) LEICHHARDTIANA(8-80) MEDULLARIS(5-80) PHYSOLEPIDOTA(7-81) REBECCAE(8-81) SMITHII('80) SP.(PHILIPPINES)(12-79) CYRTOMIUM FALCATUM(4-81) CYSTOPTERIS BULBIFERA(8-81) . FRAGILIS(10-80) DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA(3-81) FIBROSA( 6-81 ) LANATA(?) SQUARROSA(1-80) YOUNGIAE(N.G. FORM)(8-81) YOUNGIAE(S.Q. FORM)(8-81) DIPLAZIUM AUSTRALE(3-80) DILATATUM( 5-80 ) DODDIA ASPERA(3-81) MEDIA(12-80) DORYOPTERIS CONCOLOR(8-80) DRYOPTERIS ACROSTICHDIDES(7-81) AEMULA(?) CRASSIRHIZOMA(8-77) INTERMEDIA(7-81) MARGINALIS(7-81) SP.( JAPAN )( 4-80 )

SPORE LIST (Cont'd.)

-GLEICHENIA RUPESTRIS(8-81) LASTREUPSIS ACUMINATA(12-80) DECOMPOSITA(7-80) HISPIDA(4-80) MARGINANS(12-79) MUNITA( 8-80) NEPHRODIDIDES(7-80) (RUFESCENS?)(8-81) SMITHIANA(7-80) (TENERA?)(8-81) SP.(N.QLD)(8-81) LORINSERIA AREOLATA(11-79) LUNATHYRIUM JAPONICUM(1-81) LYGODIUM CIRCINNATUM(3-81) FLEXUOSUM(8-80) MACROTHELYPTERIS POLYPODIOIDES(11-79) MATTEUCCIA ORIENTALIS(?) STRUTHIOPTERIS(12-79) MICROLEPIA SPELUNCAE(8-80) SP.(N.QLD)(8-81) MICROSORIUM PAPPEI(8-80) OSMUNDA CLAYTONIANA(7-81) FELLAEA FALCATA(1-81) FALCATA NANA(11-80) PARADOXA(11-80) PITYROGRAMMA CALOMELANOS(8-81)

PLATYCERIUM CORDNAR1UM(12-79) HOLTTUMII(12-79) SUPERBUM( 3-81 ) VEITCHII(8-80) WANDAE( '80) PNEUMATOPTERIS SOGERENSIS(12-80) POLYSTICHUM ACULEATUM(2-80) AUSTRALIENSE(5-80) FORMOSUM( 5-81 ) LENTUM(12-80) MUNITUM( 9-80) PROLIFERUM(8-80) SETIFERUM 'ACUTILOBUM'(6-81)-STANDISHII(8-80) TSUSE-SIMENSE(7-80) VESTITUM(10-80) PTERIS BLUMEANA(12-79) COMANS(1-80) × PACIFICA(8-81) TREMULA( 9-80 ) TRIPARTITA(12-79) RUMOHRA ADIANTIFORMIS(NATIVE)(1-81) SPHAEROSTEPHANDS HETEROCARPUS(8-81) TAIWANENSIS(8-79) STICHERUS TENER(1-81) TODEA BARBARA(3-81) TREEFERNS (MIXED CYATHEAS)(?) TRISMERIA TRIFULIATA(2-80) WOODWARDIA RADICANS(7-80)



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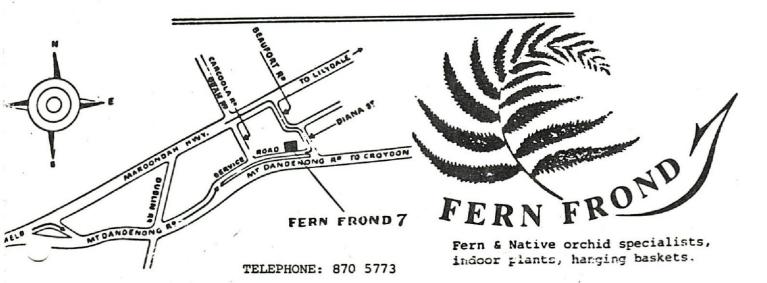
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VICTORIA: 4/375 Bayswater Road. Bayswater, Vic. 3153. Phone: Melb. (03) 720 2200. P.O. Box 302, Bayswater Vic. 3153.

NEW SOUTH WALES: 4th Floor, 309 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. Phone: (02) 235 8100.







The verse below was 'pinched' from the Rega parts catalogue and price list - we don't know from whom they pinched it!

# THE PRICELESS INGREDIENT

In the City of Baghdad lived Hakeem, the Wise One, and many people went to him for counsel, which he gave freely to all, asking nothing in return.

There came to him a young man, who had spent much but got little, and said: "Tell me, Wise One, what shall I do to receive the most for that which I spend?"

Hakeem answered: "A thing that is bought or sold has no value unless it contains that which cannot be bought or sold. Look for the Priceless Ingredient."

"But, what is this Priceless Ingredient?" asked the young man.

Spoke then the Wise One: "My son, the Priceless Ingredient of every plant in the market-place is the Honor and Integrity

of he who grows it. Consider his name before you buy.

NOT VERY MUCH OF 1981 LEFT NOW .....

-DO TRY TO COME ALONG TO OUR NOVEMBER MEETING TO HEAR MR. HARRY JACKSON, AND TO OUR DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS, MEETING TO MAKE IT A BREAK-UP CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER.

NOVEMBER MEETING: THURSDAY 12TH

DECEMBER MEETING: THURSDAY 10TH

PREPARED AND PRINTED FOR THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA BY



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