CHE FERN SOCIETY OF UICCORIA

NEUSLEÇÇER

#### 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. 45 2997
TREASURER: Jean Trudgeon, 13 Eden Street, West Heidelberg, 3081. Tel. 459 4859
SECRETARY: Keith Stubbs, 14 Afton Street, Essendon, 3040. Tel. 337 8284
BOOK SALES: Lorraine Goudey, Lot 8, Cozens Road, Lara, 3212. Tel. (052) 82 2154
EDITOR: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084. Tel. 45 2997
SPORE BANK MANAGER: Rod Hill, 41 Kareela Road, Frankston, 3199
LIBRARIAN: Ann Bryant,, 273 Douglas Parade, Newport, 3015. Tel. 391 7620
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Geoff Echberg, 1 Railway Parade, Highett, 3190. Tel. 555 5115

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I write my message for our June Newsletter from a small rainforest camp in North Queensland.

The Committee decided in April that there would be no Executive Committee Meeting in May, as Albert Jenkins and I would be away in Queensland, Berniece and Keith Stubbs would be overseas and Keith Hutchinson would be holidaying at Dunk Island on the Barrier Reef.

It may seem strange that I should write to you about Tasmania while holidaying in Queensland? My family and I spent a most enjoyable two weeks sightseeing and fern hunting in Tasmania before our rushed trip to the North. We were most fortunate, as I mentioned in our last Newsletter, to meet up with Mike Garret who was able to take us to many rare ferns that I would not have been able to find by myself.

In the Strathgordon area (South West) we observed an abundance of <u>Blechnum vulcanicum</u> (the Wedge Waterfern) some of which had fronds well over two feet long, hanging down over the water; we also saw the tiny filmy fern <u>Hymenophyllum marginatum</u> and the Brittle Bladder Fern <u>Cystopteris felix fragilis</u>. We saw an abundance of the Alpine Filmy Fern <u>Hymenophyllum peltatum</u> and The Narrow Filmy Fern

\*\*\*\*\*\*

Hymenophyllum rarum, both of which occur here in Victoria but are seldom seen. The highlight of the South-west for me was seeing the rare Dwarf Coral Fern Gleichenia abscida. This beautiful fern was growing in almost gravel along a river, with masses of broad dark green fronds up to a foot in height. Other rare ferns that we saw in Tasmania included the Lime Fern Pneumatopteris pennigera, the Shore Spleenwort Asplenium obtusatum, and the rarest of them all, Asplenium hookeranum.

We made an attempt to visit Cradle Mountain towards the end of our trip in an effort to find the Alpine Coral Fern Gleictenia alpina and the Skeletor Filmy Fern Apteropteris applanata, but almost got ourselves snowbound. We were lucky to get out at all.

Thanks to Mike, we were able to see the Skeleton Filmy Fern which grew in abundance on the trunks of The King Billy Pines

Several ferns that we take for granted here as being quite common, I was surprised to find are quite the opposite in Tasmania.

Cont'd. on next page ...

The Rough Treefern Cyathea australis occurs in only a few localities, where it is by no means abundant. The Rainbow Fern, Culcita dubia is uncommon, and the Gristle Fern, Blechnum cartilagineum and the Slender Tree Fern, Cyathea cunninghamii are extremely rare.

The Gristle Fern has not been sighted for many years, and the Slender Tree Fern is on the endangered species list, with fewer than six plants being positively known to occur in the wild. As well as meeting members of The Tasmania Fern Society at Mike's home we also visited a number of private collections to admire their ferns.

We returned home with fond memories of the Apple Isle.

CHRIS GOUDEY

\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### SWAMPY FERNS

(Further extracts from David Jones' recent talk to the Fern Society)

David continued his talk with more excellent slides of the Northern Queensland swamp areas. Much of the swamps are Melaleuca (paperbarks).

Fishbone ferns grow in such profusion in the region that they are often in tangled masses.

The Giant Climbing Fern or Climbing Swamp Fern grows 20 to 30 feet, climbing up the trunks of paperbarks. These ferns stop climbing only because of the relative dryness of the atmosphere as it reaches this height.

One of the least ornamental of Australia's ferns in the Mangrove Fern. This is an important fern of swampy habitat. It grows about 6 feet high normally and its leaves resemble gum leaves. Unfortunately, it doesn't like being moved from its inland or coastal swamp areas.

Some ferns in the swampy areas were of extreme importance to the aborigines. They would collect the rhizomes and crush them to make a powdery substance. Many of these ferns grow in dense colonies in the swampy areas, growing 3 to 5 feet tall.

An alternative swamp fern is the Queensland Coral Fern. It looks like a Tassle Fern but grows in the ground. It is quite a dainty yet wiry fern. Huge masses occur along roadsides in wet areas and it is extremely difficult to cultivate. This fern is also a climber and reaches heights of 6 to 8 feet up the trees.

An unusual feature of some swamp ferns is that at certain times of the year they die away completely -- they simply disappear. They cannot be found. Then, the first heavy rains come and, almost overnight, they are back in profusion.

NEXT MONTH: Dry Country Ferns.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FERN GULLIES OF THE OTWAYS

#### ....from the May meeting

Speaker at the Fern Society's May Monthly meeting was noted botanist, Trevor Prescott.

Originally Mr. Prescott's topic was Fern Gullies of the Otways but he spoke mostly on conservation matters relative to the Otways. Although he did not speak much on the published topic, he proved a very knowledgeable and persuasive speaker on the problems which face the Otways.

The Otways, south west of Melbourne and Geelong, is mountainous country. The Otways begin near Anglesea and extend to near Warrnambool. The highest peak is 600 metres and in parts, the rainfall averages 2000 mm or 94 inches per annum — three times Melbourne's average rainfall. It rains on an average of 200 days per annum and being a very damp place, is an excellent area for ferns and vegetation.

About 60 species of ferns have been recorded for the Otways and some of these are very interesting. Kangaroo ferns were widely spread throughout fern gullies and hard water ferns are widespread throughout the western Otways.

In 1880, a specimen of the Skirted Tree Fern was collected and logged at the Herbarium. When Norman Wakefield undertook some field research in 1940, he collected a skirted tree fern from Mt. Drummond and was surprised to find that this fern was first logged 60 years previously. This fern is rare and one has to search the Otways for scattered specimens.

More common, however, is the Slender Tree Fern. This is more widely spread throughout the Otways.

Mr. Prescott pointed out that large quantities of ferns have been extracted from the Otways, both legally and illegally. The quantities have reached such proportions that it is now a major discussion point in Geelong and Colac to try to stop this happening.

One side effect of the clearing of vegetation on the ridges is that the fern lines are further up the gully slopes than where they used to be and where they could be reasonably expected. This could be due to a change in the micro climate or changes in the water level. A side effect of this is that butterfly orchids are now in danger as ferns take over the gully slopes.

The balance of Mr. Prescott's talk was illustrated with excellent slides of the flora and fauna of the Otways and the damage already caused by the woodchipping industry. One slide particularly, of glow worms in the Melville Gully, convinced many members of the need to conduct an after-dark excursion to observe these glow worms under the banks of ferns.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

### 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

#### NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following people, who joined the ranks of Fern Society of Victoria members during the past month.

Mr. Barry Turville, 14 Elder Grove, Boronia, Vic. 3155
Alastair Thompson, 33 Hunter Road, Camberwell, Vic. 3124
Mr. & Mrs. R. Stuart, 231 Scoresby Road, Boronia, Vic. 3155
B. Horsfall, 35 Stanley Avenue, Mt. Waverley, Vic. 3149
Martin & Judith Craze, 41 Silk Street, Rosanna, Vic. 3084
Mrs. G. Cassol, 85 Albion Street, Kyabram, Vic. 3620
Mr. Ray Allingham, 63 York Road, Mt. Evelyn, Vic. 3796
Mr. R. Banyato, 47 Price Street, Merrylands, N.S.W. 2160
S.J. & J.E. Graham, 10 Chopping Street, Manjimup, W.A. 6258
Denise Drysdale, 112 Long Road, Eagle Heights, Queensland 4271
L. & A.E. Tumelty, Lot 3 Beddington Road, Doonan Via Eumundi, Qld. 4562

#### OBITUARY

It is with sadness we record the death of one of our members, Mr. Overall.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It was pleasing to see at least two members of the Herb Society listening to the finish of David Jones's excellent talk.

Both Societies meet on the first and second Thursdays at Burnley with the Fern Committee Meeting on the same night as the Herb General Meeting and vice-versa.

As a member of both Societies I am sure we can learn from each other.

Perhaps we could have delectable herb tea after the Fern Meetings as well as, or in place of, tea and coffee. Herb teas are certainly much healthier.

Could your business benefit from an advertisement placed in the Fern Society Newsletter?

Full page \$30.00
Half page \$17.50
Quarter page \$10.00
Eighth of page \$5.00

If you would like to discuss an advertisement, just give the Editor a call - he'll be happy to help you.

#### NEWS FROM THE SPORE BANK

Rod Hill

#### SPORE LIST - JUNE:

Spore samples may be purchased at monthly meetings, or by sending a list of your requirements with 20 cents for each species requested <u>plus</u> 40 cents for packaging and postage to Mr. R. Hill, 41 Kareela Road, Frankston, 3199.

Payment for orders may be made by postage stamp (27 cent stamps preferred where possible) or by cheque (payable to "Fern Society of Victoria").

Many species are still available from the list published in the April newsletter, but if ordering from this list, please include a supplementary list in case supplies of some species are depleted.

Instructions on propagation from spore are also still available for an extra 5 cents.

```
CHRISTELLA ARIBAGS-82)
 VORGRISHIR SEFECIOSRIK 10-80 /
 ADDAMNUM CAUDATUM(8-80)
                                                 1953/1616(3-02)
                                              CHRISTICHTERIS VARIENS(4-80)
    GRACHLIMUM(3-82)
                                              COLYSIS AMPLA(1-80)
    PERUVIANUM 4-61)
    RAPHIANUM 'ELEGANS'(8-80)
                                             CULCITA BURIAGE-80)
    RADDIANUM 'MULTICEPS'(8-80)
                                              CYATHEA AUSTRALIS(3-82)
    RADDIANUM 'SLEEPING BEAUTY'(3-01)
                                                BROWN11(2-82)
    TEMERUM 'FERGUSSONII'(0-50)
                                                CAPENGIS(Y)
                                                CELERICA(8-81)
    SP.(S.E.GLEX2-82)
                                                DOMENTAMINANS(12-79)
 AMPHINEUPON TERMINAMS(2-82)
 ARACHRIODES ARISTATA VARIGATA(2-80)
                                                CCOPER1(1-82)
                                                CUNNINCHAM11(3-82)
    STANDISHDI(8-80)
                                                DEALBATA(7-80)
 ASPLENIUM BULBIFERUM (NATIVE X 12-30)
                                                LEICHHARIGIANA(8-80)
    FLARELLIFOLIUM(11-80)
                                                MEDULLARIS(9-80)
    N11:US( 10-80 )
                                               REMECCAE(0-81)
    SCLERCPRIUM(7-80)
                                                SMITH11('80)
 ATHYMIUM ALPESTRE AMERICANUNG 6-60)
                                                SP.AFF.COOPERI(N.C.)(1-82)
    FILIX-FEMINA (CRISTATA((8-81)
                                                SP ( PHILIPPINES )( 12-79 )
    THELYPTERGILES(7-81)
                                             CYRTOHIUM FALCATUM(4-81)
 PELVISIA REVOLUTA(2-81)
                                             CYSTOPIERIS BULBIFERA(8-81)
REFCHUNK VWRICHOW(1-80)
                                                FRAGILIS(10-80)
   ARTICULATUM (11-80)
                                             DENNISTAEUTIA DAVALLIDIDES(12-81)
   CAMPIELDDI(7-80)
                                             DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA(3-82)
   CARTILACINEUM(1-82)
                                               F1HF0SA( 5-81)
   CHAMBERS1I(3-80)
                                               LANATA(3-82)
   1015COLOR(12-79)
   FLUVIATILE(3-82)
                                               SQUARROSA(1-80)
                                               YOUNGIAE(N.G. FORM)(8-81)
   GINEUM( 4-81)
                                               YOUNGIAE(S.Q. FURM)(8-81)
   NULUH( 3-82)
                                           MIPLAZIUM AUSTRALE(2-82)
   OCCILIENTALE(5-80)
                                               DILATATUM(5-80)
   DRIENTALE(12-79)
                                            1:001/16 ASPERA(3-82)
   PATERSON11(7-80)
                                               MEI/1/1/(3-82)
   PENNA-MARINA(1-81)
                                           ICHYUFTERIS CONCOLOR(8-80)
   SPICANT(7-80)
                                            DRYOPTERIS ACROSTICHULDES(7-81)
   VULCANICUM(4-82)
                                               CRASSIRHIZUMA(8-77)
   WATTS11(6-81)
                                               INTERMEDIA(7-81)
   WHELMN1(7-80)
                                              MARCINALIS(7-81)
   SP.(KING 15 X 12-79)
                                              SP. (BLACK KUREAN CROWN FERN)(3-8
CHEILANTHES IDSTANS(1-81)
                                              5P.(JAPAN)(4-80)
   7ERU1FUL16(11-79)
                                           GLEICHENIA MICROPHYLLA(3-82)
   SP.(S.E.QLI)(1-81)
                                              RUPESTRIS(8-81)
```

LASIMECRSIS ACUMINATACIZ-80) DECOMPOSITIM 7-00) HISPIDM(10-81) MARGINANS(12-79) MUNITA( B-80) NEPHRODO.01056(7-80) ( RUFESCENS? )(8-81) SMITHIANA(7-80) (TENERAT)(8-81) WALLERI(8-31) LINDSAEA MICKOPHYLLA(1-82) LUMATHYRIUM JAPONICUM(3-82) LYGGPAUM CINCINNATURG 3-81) FLEXUUSUM( 9-80 ) MATTEUCCIA STRUTHIOPTERIS(12-79) MICHOLEPIA SPELUNDAE(8-80) SP.(N.GLII)(8-81) MICROSORIUM PAPPEI(8-80) UNUCLEA SENSIBILIS(8-81) OPHIOGLOSSUM PENDULUM(10-81) OSMUNDA CLAYTONIANA(7-81) PELLAEA FALCATA(3-82) FALCATA NANA(11-80) PARADOXA(12-81) Pllykockamma calometamos(0-01) PLATYCERIUM CORONARIUM(12-79) SUPERBUM( 6-81) VE17CH11(8-80) WANDIAE ( '80 )

PHEUMATURTERIS SUGERENSIS(12-80) POLYSTICHUM AUSTRALIENSE(5-80) FORMODUM(5-81) LENTUM(3-82) MUNITURY 9-80) PERCESTERUM (1-82) SETTHERUM 'ACUTTLOBUM'(6-81) 1SUSE-SIMENSE(7-80) VESTITUM( 10-80 ) SP (2-80) PTERIS ELIMEANA(12-79) COMANS(1-80) CM571CA(3-82) PACIFICA(8-81) TREMULA( 1-82) TRIPARTITA(12-79) UMBROSA(1-82) V111616(1-82) RUMOPRA ADIANTIFORMIS(EXDIIC)(2-82) AUJANTIFORMISCHATIVE (C2-82) SPHAEROSTEPHANUS HETEROCARPUS(8-81) 161W6NENS1S(8-79) STICHERUS TENER(1-81) THELYPTERIS SPP. (CANADA)(8-01) TOURS BARBARA(1-82) TRISHERIA TRIFULIATA(2-80) WOULWARDIA RADICANS(7-80)

## Maxicrop

The world's first 100% organic liquid seaweed plant food.

Maxicrop is marketed in Australia by:

R.A. BELL-BOOTH & CO. (Aust.) P/L

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.



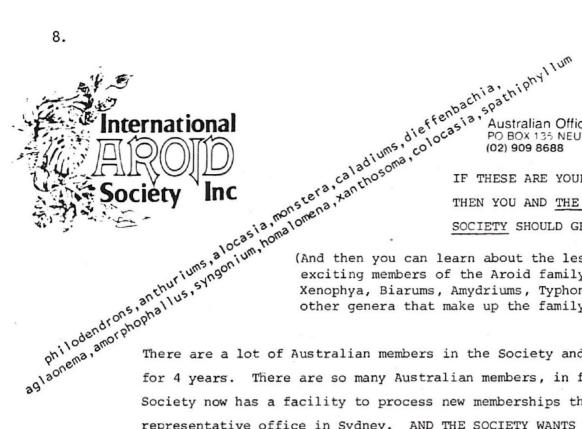


\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*









Australian Office: PO BOX 135 NEUTRAL BAY JUNCTION, NSW 2089

> IF THESE ARE YOUR KIND OF PLANT THEN YOU AND THE INTERNATIONAL AROID SOCIETY SHOULD GET TOGETHER.

(And then you can learn about the lesser known and exciting members of the Aroid family like Theriophonums, Xenophya, Biarums, Amydriums, Typhoniums -- and the 92 other genera that make up the family of Araceae)

There are a lot of Australian members in the Society and there have been for 4 years. There are so many Australian members, in fact, that the Society now has a facility to process new memberships through a representative office in Sydney. AND THE SOCIETY WANTS TO HAVE LOTS MORE MEMBERS FROM AUSTRALIA.

Members receive 4 issues of the Society Journal AROIDEANA each year. A tropical journal has about 36 pages AND IT'S ALL DEVOTED TO AROIDS.

AROIDEANA ia airmailed into Australia in bulk and sent out to Members the same day.

If you wish to join, you should fill out (PRINT) your name and address and send this application and your cheque/postal order to the postal address indicated above. Make your payment out to: TRANSAUSTRALIA TRUST ACOUNT

BUT YOU MAY WANT TO CATCH UP ON THE OTHER MEMBERS WITH A FOUR YEAR START SO WE HAVE AVAILABLE A LIMITED NUMBER OF BACK ISSUES OF AROIDEANA IN SYDNEY RIGHT NOW. There really is a limited number but bigger stocks will be arriving later so if they run out you may have to wait a while but you will get your set complete)

NAME	
(PLEASE PRINT)	
MAILING ADDRESS	
	POSTCODE PHONE:
Please indicate your requirements	1982 membership \$15
(PLEASE NOTE THAT 2 OF THE 1981 ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE, 3 and 4 are expected soon)	1981 4 back issues \$15 1980 4 back issues \$15
	1979 4 back issues \$15 1978 3 back issues \$12
	TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

#### ANGIOPTERIS EVECTA FROM SPORE:

In July 1972, I collected spore from an Angiopteris plant in cultivation, sowed the spore and was extemely pleased to note successful germination within a short time. Nine years later, after constantly weeding out "ringins", mosses, fungi, etc., a single surviving very thick prothallus, about 3 cm across, developed a pale fleshy bud on the underside, and finally a tiny leaf "erupted" through the surface. Since then, two more sporelings have developed on the same prothallus and the first plant now has several fronds about 4 cm long (and is nearly 10 years old - hardly a commercial proposition!).

A few more recent attempts with spore of Angiopteris and Marattia had germinated but in most cases had died out without further result

One batch, sown in September '79 after a trip to North Queensland, was still very healthy looking at the end of last year, and remembering seeing many tiny Angiopteris sporelings, still attached to their large prothalli, growing happily on clay cuttings in Palmerston National Park, I decided to try imitating these conditions.

I mixed a few handfuls of heavy, red, mountain soil with some treefern fibre and pressed this into square pots from one bottom edge to the opposite top edge to form a 45° slope. Onto each slope I carefully transplanted a number of healthy prothalli, watered well and placed the pots in a glass topped aquarium.

The mix was not sterilized, mainly because the resulting soggy mess would have been difficult to work with, and mosses and other ferns have sprung up, but the Angiopteris prothalli have grown rapidly (they are easily recognised because of their thickness) and so far three have developed their first true fronds.

Needless to say, I am extremely pleased with my success at growing these ferns from spore, especially since they have been grown cold with no artificial heating.

Hopefully, others may be tempted to experiment further with propagation of Angiopteris and Marattia from spore.

#### A LUSH FERN GULLY IN CENTRAL N.S.W.

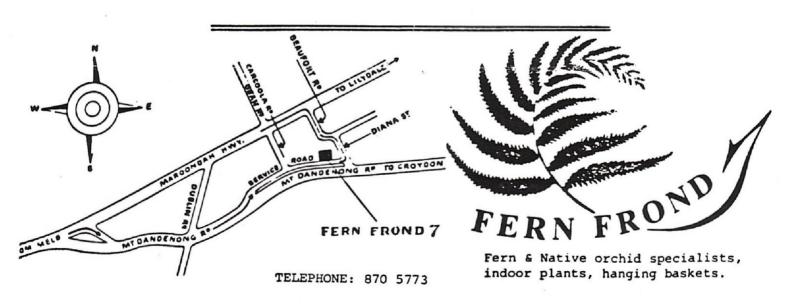
For anyone travelling along the Newell Highway through inland N.S.W. (or even if visiting Sydney itself) a detour to Lake Burrendong (about 75 km south-east of Dubbo via Wellington) is certainly worthwhile if native ferns are of interest to you

Burrendong Arboretum, on the shores of Lake Burrendong (and almost adjacent to a well appointed caravan park) is an area of about 160 hectares set aside for a living collection of Australian native plants, with over 1,600 different species planted to date.

In one corner of the arboretum, a small gully (about one quarter of an acre) has been spanned with a vast steel mesh canopy laced with brush and planted with many hundreds of native ferns and other rainforest plants. Even though the first ferns were planted as recently as November 1980, they have established quickly and to pass from the dry, rocky surrounds, on a hot January day earlier this year, into this lush sub-tropical oasis was certainly a memorable experience.

Most of the ferns have been donated by members of the Sydney-based S.G.A.P. Fern Study Group and if you are intending to visit, any donations, especially of more unusual native ferns, would I'm sure, be most gratefully received. Those who have already contributed to this project certainly have good reason to feel very proud of their efforts.

\*\*\*\*\*\*



ONE MAN BAND ....

Congratulations to Keith Stubbs on the way he conducted our last meeting, solo, under extreme pressure of uncertainty (late speaker!)

#### FERN SHOW SUB-COMMITTEE

Still we have not had any more volunteers or ideas put forward.

So, come on - use our suggestion box and put in your helpful ideas and hints; every one helps.

If you can help, or are interested, please contact:

BILL TAYLOR on 63 3725 or 277 4310.



Pay a visit to

# ECHBERGS' Nursery/Florist

1 Railway Parade, Highett

THE HOME OF -FERNS, NATIVE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS

"Flowers sent Worldwide" by TELEFLOWER (AUSTRALIA) LTD

Geoff & May ECHBERG



Phone: 555 5115 A.H: 555 1179

#### SPEAKER PROGRAMME

JUNE 11TH

Chris Goudey

"Specialised Family"

JULY 8TH

Dr. John French - C.S.I.R.O.

"Does Forestry Management Protect

Flora Habitat"

AUGUST 12TH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DEMONSTRATION NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 9TH

Rod Hill

"Tree Ferns"

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

cancelled.

VENUE OF MEETINGS:

Burnley Horticultural School Hall,

Burnley

TIME OF MEETINGS:

8 p.m.

PREPARED AND PRINTED FOR THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA BY



#### JUDY BIELICKI'S **EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

Ivanhoe, Victoria 3079

First Floor 153 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, Victoria 3079

Telephone 407 1013 492937