

OFFICE-BEARERS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member,

Next Meeting: We are once again to be favoured by an interstate Guest Speaker at our General Meeting on 14th April, 1983. Mr. Ray Best, a well known Sydney authority on the cultivation of ferns has titled his talk, "GENERAL FERN GROWING". Members who attend meetings in Melbourne will no doubt have some knowledge of Ray's skill and knowledge after reading his book "Growing Ferns". The book is available from the Society's book stall at General Meetings.

Honorary Life Membership was conferred on our Immediate Past President, Chris Goudey at the General Meeting last month. Chris is the first recipient of this award in the history of the Society. It was awarded by the Executive Committee in recognition of Chris' outstanding contribution to the Fern Society's inauguration and development.

Fern Show: By the time this issue of the Newsletter is distributed, the Society's Annual Fern Show will have been staged. Indications at the March General Meeting were that the response by members to various requests was very heartening for our Organizers.

Establishing an Outdoor Fern Garden (Continued from March 1983 issue)

7. MAINTENANCE:

Once established, the fern garden required specific maintenance and to guide us in the form that the maintenance should take, we turn once again to Nature. We observed that in their natural situations, ferns are provided with constant replenishment of nourishing mulch in the form of fallen leaves, twigs and bark from the attendant trees and shrubs. Fertilizer is available through the droppings of birds and tree dwelling native animals. The droppings are washed down from the tree branches and leaves by the rain and reach both epiphytic and terrestrial plants as liquid fertilizer.

For the fern garden these factors were simulated by preparing a mixture of leaf mould, charcoal, dry fowl manure and river sand. This mixture was spread on the surface around the plants to a thickness of about 2.5 cm (one inch). This was never, at any stage, worked in and was applied once or twice a year. Just before each application of mulch, we gave the areas a good watering.

Other regular maintenance included weeding, removal of damaged, dry and tatty fronds and a check on the well-being of individual ferns. Any which looked unthrifty were lifted and replanted in a contrasting spot in the garden. For example, a position having more light or a more elevated soil often worked wonders.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR APRIL MEETING WILL BE

MR. RAY BEST

SPEAKING ON "GENERAL FERN GROWING"

(See notes on next page)

STOP PRESS ... STOP PRESS ... STOP PRESS ... STOP PRESS ...

MARCH 1983 FERN SHOW OUTSTANDING SUCCESS !!!

Further details in next month's Newsletter.

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<u>Watering</u>: Having prepared our plots initially with plenty of rubble and heavy vegetation dug deeply into the sub-soil, we had achieved the effect of raising the garden beds well above the surrounding ground. An advantage came from this in watering; it enabled us to keep the soil moist but not at any time soggy.

After growing ferns in the garden for a couple of years, we found that most of them have a dormancy period in the Winter, but at the same time some introduced species are completely deciduous. We believe that it is fatal for these plants to be over-wet during their period of hibernation.

In times of non-restriction of water usage, our method of watering was by hand-held hose, applied in the mornings through the Summer months. Our objective was not to allow the soil to dry out. On days of extreme heat such as 38°C, we used a fixed sprinkler standing 3 m (10 feet) high. Although illegal under present day restrictions, this sprinkler operated in a circular motion spraying water finely above the foliage from whence it fell through to the ferns as cooling rain. It is a smaller version of the type used by market gardeners in spray irrigation.

Conversely in times of strict water restrictions, we have no choice and simply must comply. The overriding consideration in these circumstances is to work hard for the survival of the ferns and to hope that one day good rains will come.

> with kindest regards Doug Thomas

RAY BEST - SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER FOR APRIL

Continuing the policy implemented last year, the Executive Committee is pleased to announce that foremost fern expert and author, Ray Best, will be flown to Melbourne for the meeting of the Fern Society on 14th April.

Mr. Best is well known for his book on ferns and for the tremendous knowledge that he has obtained over the years on ferns.

In talking to the Secretary, Mr. Best indicated that his aim is to make the material he presents as interesting and informative as possible and rather than present a specialised talk dealing in detail with a particular subject, he will be choosing a general coverage including a number of unusual species.

Ray Best points out that ferns are quite a large group, numbering some 20,000 world-wide and so any short talk could only be classed as an introduction.

During his talk he will be using Macro-slides of actual plants and material. He will also be presenting slides of a created gully situation showing how ferns could be grown in a tree sheltered area.

These are only a few aspects which will be covered by Ray Best during his talk. We expect a bumper turn-up!

WANTED

Society member moving to Queensland to start nursery would like ferns from other Society members, especially interesting ferns of Nepolepsis ferns and other ferns easily propagated by division to assist in the establishment of stock plants.

R.J. PATTISON

16 Rickard Street CARLINGFORD N.S.W. 2118

PHLEBODIUM AUREUM 'UNDULATUM'

An epiphyte with large wavy pinnate fronds (35 - 50 cm) and stout brown scaley rhizomes. Prefers warm climate but will tolerate cooler conditions if given some protection during winter. Will grow in a pot but prefers a basket with a very well drained potting mixture. Does well indoors. Formerly known as Polypodium Aureum Undulation.



PRESIDENT ADDRESSES MARCH MEETING

The Society's President, Doug Thomas was the speaker at the March meeting when over 150 members attended.

The President demonstrated his love of ferns which has extended in active participation for 25 years. The quality of the slides, which predominated his address, demonstrated the care which both he and his wife, Ella, display with 'all things ferns'.

His talk was split into several sections. Doug pointed out that in the early days there was no way that he could obtain information about ferns - so he took the only way out and turned to nature by going into National Parks and Gullies and waterfall areas where ferns grow. By doing that, he was able to put into effect his first study of the requirement of ferns. That was what the first part of his talk covered, excellent slides of ferns growing in their natural habitats in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

The second section dealt with the Thomas's own home and how they handle ferns, both inside and outside the house. This also included graphic slides of how to prepare hanging baskets and repot ferns, when he returned to his subject of his talk "The Things We Do With Ferns".

The cheapest method of preparing hanging baskets was shown. Melaleuca bark is probably the cheapest lining material with which to line a basket. However, he pointed out that in the long run it is not cheap because the bark rots in about two years and the process has to be repeated.

The mix which Doug uses for hanging baskets differs a little from that which he uses for potting ferns. It is a little coarser as it has more fibre. The croc he uses contains a lot of charcoal, coarse tree fern fibre and even broken-up bricks.

One "trick" Doug showed was the way he fills the basket with mix. After the basket is lined, he puts a time inside the middle and builds the soil around it, leaving a depression into which the fern is then inserted.

An interesting innovation used by Doug is to solder the hook into a rigid position. This facilitates the positioning of the basket and stops the "S" hook turning over in the final "crucial" stage of positioning it on the cup hook.

An alternative inexpensive lining material is coconut fibre.

Repotting of ferns was interestingly covered by slides. The methodical way that the Thomases go about repotting was demonstrated on slide with exact measures of their 10 part potting mix laid out. Doug's potting mix is 1 part loam, 1 part spagnum moss, which has been chopped finely, 1 part propagating sand with fine dirt sieved out, 1 part fowl manure, 1 part tree fern fibre, 1 part charcoal and 4 parts leaf mould. Croc similar to that shown for hanging baskets is used.

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The presentation concluded with a display of outside areas of the Thomas home where special fern gardens have been prepared. Outside fern gardens need long preparation before planting ferns. The soil should be well turned over. In heavy clay areas, good quantities of rotting vegetation should be spread over the top of the soil and dug in to get some nourishment into the soil. Some coarse gravel, charcoal and propagating sand is then spread over the surface and turned in lightly to a depth of 3" or 4" of the soil. Leaf mould is then spread over the whole plot to a depth of a few inches. The plants go through the mulch into the heavier medium without disturbing the leaf mould.

A final pictorial walk through the outside garden demonstrated that Doug Thomas really does interesting things with ferns.

BUSH FIRE TRAGEDY

We are sorry to announce that two members suffered total damage as a result bush fires. They are the Gohler family of Cockatoo and the Thompsons of Upper Beaconsfield.

The Society has passed on to them our sincere sympathy for their current plight.

If other members have been disadvantaged by the fires, would they please let the Secretary know so that contact may be made with them.

At the Executive Committee Meeting in March the decision was taken to offer those members who were burnt out, free membership for the next financial year as our small contribution to helping them over this troubled time.

The Secretary read the following letter received from the Nelson Fern Society to the March General Meeting:

"On behalf of the Nelson Fern Society, I would like you to know that all our members were most distressed at the recent disastrous fires you have recently experienced in your area. We do hope that no-one in your Fern Society was injured in any way at all, or suffered loss of their homes or property.

Perhaps because of the intense heat some ferneries have been damaged, and we would like to offer help in sending spores, if anyone needs them, to replenish their gardens. If you send me a list, I can forward it to our spore bank owner. I know he would try to send any varieties he has available.

As a Society, we donated a sum of money to the general relief fund, as we felt that was one way we could show our sympathy.

> Yours sincerely, (Mrs.) Joyce Bonnington"

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You may be interested in the reply which the Secretary has sent to Mrs. Bonnington.

"Thank you very much for the kind and warm thoughts expressed in your letter dated 28th February.

This letter arrived a few days before our monthly meeting so I had the opportunity of reading it to 150 of our members and I can assure you that it was quite warmly received.

To our knowledge, we have had two members burnt out as a result of the bushfires and one of these couples was present last night. They lost everything.

The devastation to the fern forests just has to be seen to be believed. The beautiful area of Mount Macedon, west of Melbourne, has been completely denuded of all fern species. The fire was so intense that the ground is sterile to a depth of several inches. It will be a long time before vegetation returns. Nevertheless, we are planning, as a Society, to reafforest this area with species that used to grow in that area.

The two members who were burnt out were in the Cockatoo area and similar comments apply there regarding vegetation.

I have sent the list of spore which was attached to your letter to Rod Hill, our Spore Bank Manager, and at the appropriate time we may call upon assistance from you to replenish the ferns lost by our members.

In the meantime, again, thank you very much for your thoughts, and the meeting asked me to convey to your Society its gratitude.

Yours sincerely, Keith Stubbs (Secretary)

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

We are compiling a comprehensive list of Fern Nurseries (throughout Australia) to be published in our newsletter and so assist members who may be travelling interstate and wish to extend their collection.

If you sell ferns wholesale or retail or know of some grower who does, and would like to be listed, please let us know by writing:

C/- The Editor, Fern Society of Victoria, P.O. Box 45, HEIDELBERG WEST VIC. 3081

Now that autumn is with us the drought conditions will not cause us as much concern, as if we get hot days the heat is for a much shorter period (note the Sunshine Table below).

With less soil evaporation and leaf transpiration, our ferns should start to make their autumn growth, so be sure to use a fertilizer with low nitrogen and give sulphate of potash monthly at one heaped teaspoon per gallon. Maxicrop weekly will also supply potash. This will enable the foliage to strengthen and so have a resistance to the cold winter months ahead.

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The average daily sunshine hours in Melbourne are:

January	8.1	hours	per	day
February	7.5	"		
March	6.2		11	11
April	4.9		n	**
May	3.8	"	п	
June	3.1		11	"

NOTES FROM OUR SPORE BANK MANAGER - ROD HILL

There will be no spore list enclosed in this month's newsletter as it will need some revision after our Fern Show. However, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who provided spore for the show.

For members who have purchased the following spore, some notes about the ferns concerned, may be interested:

<u>Dicksonia sp. (Qld.)</u> My attention was recently drawn to this fern again when I visited Phyll and Viv Brown in Sydney. My amazement at one of their treeferns was shrugged off as "only Dicksonia antarctica". It appears that in some of its northern habitats, Dicksonia antarctica produces buds on the trunk in the same way that D. squarrosa and D. youngiae do. This is taken for granted by locals in these areas in the same way as we in Victoria assume that D. antarctica does <u>not</u> form buds. The above spore was taken from one of these "budding" soft Treeferns. It would be interesting to hear from other members in N.S.W. and Queensland of occurrence of these different forms of D. antarctica in their areas.

<u>Blechnum sp. (King Is.)</u> This spore is <u>not</u> that of the fern shown in the colour Plate 21 of the latest edition of Jones & Clemesha "Australian Ferns & Fern Allies". The fern in this plate is Blechnum nudum as labelled. The luxuriant pinnatafid pinnae will often develop on this fern, either in the wild or in cultivation, when the fern is grown under particularly lush conditions, and will readily revert to the normal form if these lush conditions are not maintained.

There is a fern of very similar appearance, with <u>permanently</u> bipinnatifid fronds known as Blechnum nudum 'Fimbriatum', but unfortunately this magnificent fern does <u>not</u> produce spore and must be propagated by division.

The spore of Blechnum sp. (King Is.) belongs to the fern described on P. 104 by Jones & Clemesha. I have seen this fern growing in Victoria in several places including the Otways and Wilson's Promontory and in many respects, this fern seems to be intermediate between Blechnum wattsii and B. minus.

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ROD HILL

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members of The Fern Society of Victoria.

Mrs. Beth Rigney, Box 18, Edmonton, North Queensland, 4869 Mrs. Janet Unsworth, 23 Burnett Street, Wellington Point, 4160 Judith Jones, 1911 Fourth Avenue West, Seattle, Washington, 98119 U.S.A. Mr. Raymond R. Sodomka, The San Diego Fern Society,

7824 Normal Avenue, La Mesa - Ca. 92041 U.S.A. Phyllis Phillips, 3 Irving Street, Newport, 3015 Judith Perry, 11 Anita Street, Salisbury Plains, 5109 Joan Fulton, 87 Haines Street, Hawthorn, 3122 Mr. & Mrs. J. Clark, 14 Acheron Avenue, Reservoir, 3073 Mrs. R.J. Courtier, 44 Briggs Street, Caulfield, 3162 J. Lloyd, 38 Wellington Street, Flemington, 3031 Noel Watkins, 105 McKell Avenue, Sunbury, 3429 Wayne Long, 63 Athol Road, Noble Park, 3174 Mrs. Cheryl Cousland, P.O. Box 102, Benalla, 3672 Heather Mackey, Unit 63, St. James Village,

Halifax Street, Dandenong, 3175 Elizabeth Eager, 42 Bayles Street, Parkville, 3052 Robert & Kathy Piper, 213 Purinuan Road, Reservoir, 3073 George Smith, 14 Milton Street, Bell Park, Geelong, 3215 Robert Crook, 34 Bruce Street, Dandenong, 3175 George & Pam Crone, 37 Naroon Road, Alphington, 3078 Mrs. Lisa Rutherford, 16 Castlewood Street, East Bentleigh, 3165 Mr. John Pobjoy, 26 View Street, Pascoe Vale, 3044 Bill & Moira Paterson, 41 Medina Road, Glen Waverley, 3150 Beryl Glasson, 20 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham, 3095 Roger Flynn, 74 Leamington Street, Reservoir, 3073 Patrick Toohey, 51 Mary Street, Essendon, 3040 E.C. Lindeboom, 13 Crawford Street, Cheltenham, 3192 Paul Nuthall, 2 Kurrajong Crescent, Watsonia, 3087 Mr. & Mrs. Plessing, 9 Erica Crescent, Heathmont, 3135 L.R. Brown, 39 Wirraway Street, Moe, 3825 J.C. & M.M. Batson, 6 Church Street, Glenelg, 5045 Mrs. M. Millar, 4 Hope Street, Rosebud, 3939 Mr. Stanley Cheong, 6/51 Denham Street, Hawthorn, 3122 Mr. & Mrs. L.G. Kohn, 54 Sinclair Road, Bayswater, 3153



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LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO CHRIS GOUDEY

At the conclusion of the March General Meeting, our President conferred Life Membership on our Immediate Past President, Chris Goudey.

The President stated that this is the highest award that a Society can bestow on any member and expressed the wish that, in years to come, Chris will remember the night's function with affection.

The President, Doug Thomas, paid tribute to Chris' untiring efforts in the preceding four years of the Society and mentioned that it was almost four years to the day that the Society had its first official meeting. Foundation members will recall that the inaugural meeting of the Fern Society was in May, 1979.

The President was supported by Vice President, Bill Taylor. He referred to the tremendous amount of work done by Chris for the Society and that so many members have received so much pleasure through his efforts to provide a wide variety of plants and the tremendous amount of trouble he goes to in imparting knowledge to members.

Upon receiving the Life Membership, Chris stated that he had received tremendous enjoyment through being part of the Society and his wish was that it continues to function forever. He paid tribute to members of previous committees as well as the present committee in the way that the Society had grown over four years to be stable and strong with plenty of money to be able to do many things for fern growers, not only in Victoria, but throughout Australia.

A SELECTION OF ASPLENIUMS CULTIVATED IN AUSTRALIA - BY CHRIS GOUDEY

Asplenium

as plen 'i um

More commonly known as spleenworts. Members of this genus were used to treat disorders of the spleen in ancient times. The genus Asplenium is one of the largest and most distinct groups of ferns containing about six hundred and fifty species, which are widely distributed throughout the world.

They can usually be recognised by their linear or boat-shaped sori. Many Aspleniums have the ability to produce plantlets on the frond tips or along the mid ribs of the frond i.e. Aplenium bulbiferum.

A great number of spleenworts are epiphytes and therefore make excellent basket subjects, some of them actually thrive with a minimum of water, such as the nidus group.

A. attenuatum

A small tufted fern that usually occurs on clay embankments or amongst rocks along mountain streams and rivers in rainforests. It ranges from north east Queensland, south to northern New South Wales. Under favourable conditions, this fern produces an abundance of plantlets from buds which occur on the apex of each frond. Many forms of this fern occur in the wild, some of which have been collected and named.

They are: A. attenuatum var integrum - a plain strap form. A. attenuatum var multilobum - this attractive form is quite distinctively lobed. A. attenuatum var Schneideri - a most attractive fern that is quite rare in cultivation. This variety is believed to be a hybrid, and can only be cultivated by division, the fronds do not seem to proliferate.

A. attenuatum is a novelty fern to grow because of its walking habit, it is quite hardy and can be grown as far south as Victoria if glasshouse conditions can be provided.

A. baileyanum

Another rare species from the rainforest jungles of north east Queensland where it usually occurs in similar situations to A. affine. The two species often grow together. A. baileyana is a small terrestrial fern, and is extremely difficult to cultivate.

This fern has been confused in the past with A. hookeranum, a species native to southern Australia and New Zealand.

Another fern, quite similar to A. baileyanum has been recorded from several similar locations. This fern could possibly be a poorly divided form of A. baileyana or a hydrid with that species.

A. belargeri

Belargers spleenwort is a native of Java, Sumatra and Borneo where it usually grows on rocks and trees in moist places.

This attractive fern has long graceful bipinnate fronds that produce plantlets along the stipe in a similar manner to A. bulbiferum. A. belargeri is a tender fern and requires heated conditions in southern Australia. It is a slow growing species that can easily be propagated by removal of the bulbils and planting them in a suitable medium, and supplied with humid conditions.

A. bulbiferum

The Hen and Chicken fern is an abundant fern of New Zealand and south eastern Australia. It also occurs through the Pacific Islands and Malaya as far north as India, and has also been reported from Central America and Africa.

A. bulbiferum is a strong robust-growing fern that is hardy in almost any situation; it likes a good root run, and is best suited to planting in the ground. In New Zealand this fern hybridizes quite freely with at least six other native species of Asplenium. The result is a fern intermediate between the two, that quite often produces bulbils.

The form that is sold commercially differs slightly to the native species and is believed to be a hybrid.

A. cuneatum

An uncommon species from the rainforest gullies of north eastern Queensland, where it seems to favour growing among boulders in well shaded gullies. Though uncommon, this fern was recorded last century, and is illustrated in "Lithograms of the Ferns of Queensland" by F.M. Bailey 1892, as A. affine.

Asplenium cuneatum is a difficult fern to grow outside the tropics., It requires a minimum temperature of 55°F (13°C) and a high humidity, but it is well worth the effort, for it is a most attractive fern.

A. daucifolium

Formerly known as A. viviparum, this fern is native to Mauritius and tropical America and has also been reported from Madagascar. Often called the Mother Fern, this species produces an abundance of plantlets on the upper surface of the fronds.

A. daucifolium is sometimes confused with A. bulbiferum. However, the former is a much smaller fern with more erect fronds.

This fern requires glasshouse conditions and protection from extreme cold. Like A. bulbiferum this fern can be easily propagated by removing the bulbils and planting them in a suitable medium. A. dimorphum

This species is quite similar to the horticultural form of A. bulbiferum. Commonly called the three-in-one fern or the threeway fern. A. dimorphum produces juvenile fronds with broad pinnae similar to the sterile fronds of A. bulbiferum, and mature fronds that are skeletonised, quite similar to A. flaccidum but erect and not pendulous.

Intermediate fronds quite often consist of both forms. An attractive tall growing fern that requires glasshouse conditions in southern Australia. This species is native to Norfolk Island.

A. flabellifolium

Flabellifolium means fan-shaped leaves. Commonly known as the Necklace Fern, A. flabellifolium is an abundant fern occurring in all Australian states as well as New Zealand.

It usually prefers to grow in amongst rocks in open forest, or basalt plains. This fern produces plantlets at the end of each long trailing frond and can quickly colonise large areas. Because of its trailing habit the Necklace Fern is well suited to cultivate in a hanging basket, provided it is given good lighting.

A. flaccidum

A most attractive and yet rarely cultivated spleenwort. A. flaccidum usually grows as an epiphyte on trees, logs and sometimes in amongst rocks in cool damp rainforest. It is native to south eastern Australia, New Zealand and several Pacific Islands, and has also been reported as being found in South Africa.

When seen at its best, this fern has long graceful, pendulant fronds up to 3 feet long. In recent revision of the species of Asplenium in New Zealand, Mr. P. J. Brownsey, N.Z. Journal of Botany 1977 Vol. 15, has recognised one new species and two sub species, all formerly known as A. flaccidum.

They are as follows:

A. flaccidum Forst.f. sub.sp. flaccidum

A. flaccidum Forst.f. sub.sp. haurakiense Brownsey

- A. terrestre Brownsey sub.sp. terrestre
- A. CELLESCLE BLOWINSEY SUD. Sp. CELLES

A. terrestre Brownsey sub.sp. marinum Brownsey sub.sp. nov.

A. formosum

A beautiful small growing tropical fern native to a wide area. Its range includes tropical Africa, southern India, Ceylon, to the West Indies and tropical America. This fern usually grows as an epiphyte on trees and logs as well as crevices in rocks. A. formosum is quite hardy in cultivaon if supplied with a well drained medium and glasshouse conditions outside the tropics. The species name formosum means beautiful, which this fern certainly is.

sub.sp. nov.

A. hookerianum

This small delicate fern has been recorded from the Upper Hume River in New South Wales and more recently at Bryces Gorge in the Snowy Plains in Victoria and Tasmania. Outside Australia this fern is quite common in New Zealand where it grows from sea level to 800m (2,500 ft) altitude. A. hookerianum seems to favour steep rocky banks or on rocky or sandy ground. Similar in outline to the Common Maidenhair Fern, A. hookerianum is often referred to as the Maidenhair Spleenwort. Very difficult in cultivation, this fern prefers a cool well drained position with good light and fresh air.

A. lamprophyllum

A. lamprophyllum is an endemic species, restricted to the north island of New Zealand where it usually occurs amongst rocks or on clay banks in shady woods.

This fern is quite similar in appearance to A. bulbiferum and was once thought to be a form of that fern. It differs from A. bulbiferum in having a creeping rhizome and no proliferous bulbils. Bulbiferous forms have been found but these have been proved to be hybrids between A. bulbiferum and A. lamprophyllum. Hardy in cultivation.

A. laserpitiifolium

More commonly known as the Johnston River Maidenhair Fern. A. laserpitiifolium is a low altitude, rainforest fern of north, eastern Queensland, where it can be found growing as an epiphyte on trees, logs or in amongst the spongy root system of other ferns, such as Asplenium australasicum and Drynaria rigidula. This fern is much sought after by collectors, and would undoubtedly be the most beautiful Asplenium in Australia. At its best this plant has long pendulous tripinnate to quadripinnate fronds up to 6 feet (2m) long, hanging down out of the tree cannopy.

A.laserpitiifolium favours the same type of environment as Tassel Ferns and Ribbon Ferns. This fern is not difficult to cultivate if provided with glasshouse conditions, and a little heat outside the tropics.

A. oblongifolium

Native to New Zealand, the Shining Spleenwort is a most distinctive fern, it has beautiful shining green pinnate fronds up to 3 feet (lm) in length. Pinnae are lanceolate and quite leathery. This fern is closely related to A. obtusatum, the Shore Spleenwort, the main differences being the shape of the pinnae, and the size of the plants. A. obtusatum is a smaller plant with more obtuse pinnae than A. oblonifolium. A similar species occurs on Lord Howe Island, A. milnei. A hardy species for a sheltered position.

DIARY	DATES
THURSDAY APRIL 14TH:	RAY BEST General Fern Growing
THURSDAY MAY 12TH:	NEW MEMBERS Beginners and Gadget Night
THURSDAY JUNE 9TH:	MARY FFROST Native Ferns of North East Victoria

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

VENUE OF MEETINGS: Burnley Horticultural School Hall, Burnley

TIME OF MEETINGS: 8 p.m.

PREPARED AND PRINTED FOR THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA



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