



THE FERN
SOCIETY OF
VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. VBH3411

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 5 JUNE, 1983

OFFICE-BEARERS

PRESIDENT: Doug Thomas, 17 Knaith Road, Ringwood East, 3135 Tel. 870 7229
 VICE-PRESIDENTS: Albert Jenkins, 11 Morwell Avenue, Watsonia, 3087 Tel. 435 3863
 Bill Taylor, 1 Princetown Road, Mt. Waverley, 3149 Tel. 277 4310
 TREASURER: Jean Trudgeon, 13 Eden Street, West Heidelberg, 3084 Tel. 459 4859
 SECRETARY: Keith Stubbs, 14 Afton Street, Essendon, 3040 Tel. 337 8284
 EDITOR: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084 Tel. 45 2997
 SPORE BANK MANAGER: Rod Hill, 41 Kareela Road, Frankston, 3199
 BOOK SALES: Lorraine Goudey, Lot 8, Cozens Road, Lara, 3212 Tel. (052) 82 2154
 LIBRARIAN: Bernadette Blackstock, 65 Hobson Street, Newport, 3015 Tel. 391 5517
 PUBLICITY OFFICER: Geoff Echberg, 1 Railway Parade, Highett, 3190 Tel. 555 5155

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The concept of a "Beginners and Gadget Night" at our meeting on May 12 last attracted a marvellous attendance of some two hundred persons. It also provided mini talks and demonstrations which proceeded non-stop for one hour and forty minutes.

Mini talks were delivered by Chris Goudey on "Raising Ferns from Spores", Bill Taylor "Repotting a Maiden Hair after Division" and Albert Jenkins "My Method of Fertilizing Ferns". Each of these talks was very skilfully handled with good use being made of special equipment.

I was personally delighted with the number and scope of gadgets which so many members had brought to the meeting. All of these were demonstrated by their owners and included a garden hoe made from an old file; many and varied but very effective containers in which members raised their sporelings, plastic pots cut and shaped to fit and hang flat against a wall, double potting with an insulation of spaghnum moss to provide additional humidity for ferns kept indoors, a method of layering the rhizomes of soil-hugging Davallias, use of a wick in a can of water to keep Platyceriums moist in hot weather, a

two thermometer method of measuring humidity in a glass house or hot box, a method of separating single sporelings before potting on, a frame made from wire coat-hangers into which a potted fern could be fitted and then hung as a fern basket, and an improvised shade material made from the fronds of common bracken.

The whole night was full of interest and enjoyment with a host of information dispensed. I thank all contributing members for their support and co-operation. It was they who made the meeting such an outstanding activity, the format of which I would like to see repeated. However, I feel that if we are to have Beginners Nights in future, we should aim for improvement in our organization of a couple of areas.

(1) Seating should be arranged so that every member of the audience can clearly see the work of the demonstrators; regardless of how large the audience may be.

(2) We need a more sophisticated deployment of microphones for speakers who need to use both hands for demonstration work.

Continued next page



OUR SPEAKER AT OUR JUNE MEETING
WILL BE MARY FROST, FROM WANGARATTA.

SHE WILL BE SPEAKING ON "FERNS OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA"

Those who come along on June 9th are assured of a most informative and pleasant evening. Why not bring a friend?

Next meeting: Mary Frost from Wangaratta, Victoria is our Guest Speaker for the meeting on Thursday, June 9, 1983. Mary is an experienced Botanist and a well informed, capable and popular speaker. The title of her talk is "Ferns of North East Victoria".

Personnel Changes in the Show Sub-Committee: After three years of outstanding leadership of the Show Sub-Committee, Bill Taylor is to have a well earned rest from that responsibility. The new leader is Mr. Bob Lee whilst Miss Bernadette Blackstock has undertaken the post of Secretary. We wish these officers happiness and satisfaction in the work they will undertake on our behalf.

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

8. INSECT PESTS: (continued)

Brown Scale: These are very deceptive and destructive insects. They appear on first sight as a domed stationary object adhering to the stems and frondage of some of our softer ferns. However, if the outer domed shell is removed and the area underneath examined through a strong magnifying glass, dozens of minute slater-like insects will be seen crawling about very actively. They can choke the life out of a fern in short order. We spray with half strength White Oil with follow-up sprays at intervals.

Passion Vine Leaf Hopper: This insect does its considerable damage during the summer months. The juvenile is a woolly incongruous insect which amalgamates with scores of its kind to suck the sap from certain ferns, young fronds of tree ferns in particular. When disturbed they seek safety by hopping. The adult stage begins to appear about mid summer and are distinguishable as small moths which transparent, triangular wings. Although capable of flight, they too will seek safety by hopping. The adult hopper continues to suck for sustenance and can be controlled in both phases by contact sprays. Those containing Pyrethrum appear to be best.

Black Aphis: These prefer to attack the more tender of our ferns and are capable of multiplying at an alarming rate. They can be eliminated with a contact Pyrethrum based spray at half strength.

(To be continued)

with kind regards
Doug Thomas



A BRIEF MESSAGE

FROM-SHE-WHO-LOOKS-AFTER-THE-MONEY

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE THIS MONTH

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Mr. Geoff Wanden, 17 Bonnie Doon Street, Briar Hill, 3088
- L.J. Preston, 11/36 Rosella Street, Murrumbeena, 3163
- Mr. May Goschnick, 1 Taylor Street, Alexandra, 3714
- A. Bronson, 60 Colburne Avenue, Victoria Point, Queensland, 4163
- Mr. Lindsay G. Johnston, 7 Hunter Crescent, Warragul, 3820
- Mr. Donald L. Johnston, 4 Arthur Street, Hastings, 3915
- Mr. & Mrs. G. Fielden, 11 Lesdon Avenue, Cranbourne, 3977
- Phil Sheridan, INN Fernery & Fern Nursery, Lot 76 - 85,
Monbulk Road, Monbulk, 3793
- John Binnion, 8 Mantell Street, Moonee Ponds, 3039
- Mrs. Dorothy Klein, Clarendon Hotel, Latrobe Terrace, Geelong, 3220
- Mrs. Tricia Daw, 49 Beard Street, Eltham, 3095
- A.C. Onslon, 8 White Street, Wangaratta, 3677
- Dr. Garry J. Cook, 1192 Malvern Road, Malvern, 3144
- Mr. Ted Symes, 303 Glenfern Road, Upwey, 3158
- Mr. David Kee, P.O. Box 144, Ocean Grove, 3226
- Mrs. Sonia Finlay, Preston Street, Ross, Tasmania, 7209
- Margaret Meehan, R.M.B. 6330 via Wodonga, 3690
- Mr. W. Russell, 20 Carr Street, North Coburg, 3058
- T. Buchanan, Willow-Grove Road, Tanjil South, 3825
- The Secretary, South Australian Fern Society, P.O. Box 711 G.P.O.,
Adelaide, 5001
- Western Australian Fern Society, C/- Mrs. G.E.J. Bromley,
73 Point Walter Road, Bilton, W.A. 6157

* * * * *

FOR SALE AZALEAS

Azaleas - all you need.
Over 60 varieties, all sizes.

Camellias & Rhodos also.

BILL & JOAN TAYLOR
1 Princetown Road
MT. WAVERLEY 3149
Phone: 277 4310

APOLOGY:

Strange things can happen when one types from another person's handwriting as Mrs. Allgood, of Allgood Plants & Ferns will agree!

The CORRECT spelling of the name appears in our Buyers' Guide this month.

Oops! Our error!

JUDY BIELICKI

NEW MEMBERS AND GADGETS NIGHT

A pleasing aspect of the the May General Meeting was the number of members who brought in 'gadgets' to help new (and old) members in their growing endeavours.

May was our New Members and Gadgets Night which was conducted by the President, Doug Thomas. The large audience enjoyed an interesting and informative evening.

Three "old stagers" spoke about aspects of growing ferns - Bill Taylor, Chris Goudey and Albert Jenkins.

Chris Goudey about raising ferns from spore who said that the most important aspect is to examine the ferns to know when the spore are ripe. This can only be determined by examining the backs of the fronds - when they are immature they are green and when they have released their spore, they are usually open with a chaffy matter protruding from the indusium. When they are ripe they are usually plump and dark brown (with the exception of some species).

Chris mentioned that sophisticated equipment is not necessary for growing fern from spore. He showed spore which had been sown in ice cream boxes (but remove the label first to allow light through) and yoghurt containers - even Chinese food containers are suitable. The ideal system is to use a container where the whole set up is enclosed - watering is not necessary as the moisture is retained within the container.

Fronds, when they are collected, should not be put in plastic - they will rot. They should be put into a paper bag or interleaved between sheets of paper and left from three days up to three weeks. Ferns with thick fronds take longer to shed their spore than maiden hair ferns.

Chris then demonstrated the various stages of how to collect the spore, separate the chaff from the spore by a sieve (pantihose will do), sowing the spore and ultimately picking out and planting into bigger containers. If spore is not to be used immediately, it may be stored in leak proof containers. Soil should be sterilised before it is used. If the spore is sown thickly it should be thinned out to prevent dying. This is the time to repot into another larger container. The clumps picked out and replanted should be planted with about 2cm space. The plants will push each other out and fill up the spaces. This may have to be repeated again if the original sowing was very thick.

Continued overleaf

Continued from previous page

Bill Taylor, who demonstrated dividing a maiden hair, said that this is the easiest way to multiply your fern collection.

When repotting the fern, tease out the roots to get rid of the old used soil and give the roots the benefit of the fresh medium. When the roots are teased apart, clumps of fern are easily recoverable for repotting, depending on the number of ferns you want, or as Bill said, how mean you are. Small clumps should be put into small pots, even tubes. Dead, rotted roots should be taken off but make sure the root sections with brown and white growing tips are retained. They are the ones which will ensure that your dividing is successful.

When repotting, a 3" or 4" pot is usually big enough. Some ferns do not like being "chopped up" - so you should check first. Some varieties may be broken up only every two years - some not at all. If in doubt, check with one of the more knowledgeable members of the Society.

Division should be undertaken generally in early spring - when the very cold weather pattern has broken. Bill's mixture changes every year but generally he uses leaf mould, lignum peat, pine bark, coarse river sand, a little cow manure, fern fibre, compost - you name it, Bill puts it in. Availability of components dictate what he uses from year to year. As long as the mixture is kept wide open and kept friable, it will be suitable. Bill also adds a bit of lime for the maiden hairs.

Albert Jenkins spoke about his methods of fertilising. An interesting development recently undertaken by him is growing ferns in tree fern trunks. This in itself is not new, but he has been soaking the old tree fern trunks in a mixture of Maxicrop water. He has revived dying ferns by leaving the tree trunk in about 2" of Maxicrip water. Albert came across this remedy for sick ferns accidentally and now regularly grows ferns in this manner. Some of the exhibits shown by him clearly demonstrated that he is on a winner here. The capillary action waters the fern and the small amount of water does not rot the tree trunk. The result of one fern over the last 12 months was spectacular. Albert's normal fertiliser is half Maxicrop, half Nitrosol mix, a little once a week. He uses this at about 1/3 strength when the ferns are dormant in winter.

Albert is now experimenting with other ferns being grown in tree fern trunks in water and will let us know next year of the results, particularly inside as this system will produce humidity, so essential for growing ferns inside.

Albert's soil mixture is 1/3 each of coarse sand, leaf mould (or compost) and charcoal.

Doug Thomas then introduced quite a few members with their "gadgets". It was good to see some new faces talk to the group about some of the things they do with gadgets.

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

We will not cover all of them, but some of these were:

1. Don't throw away broken pots. They can be cut in half vertically with tinsnips and tacked onto the plywood backing. The result can be a variety of sizes of pots which can be affixed to walls for semi-hanging ferns. Two pots for the price of one!
2. Quite often we may wish to grow an extra piece of a Davallia. Sometimes a piece may be cut off the plant and struck quite readily. However, if you do not want to take a chance on that and damage a prize Davallia through taking off a small piece, cut a punnet and the rhizome can be run into it on top of soil put onto the bottom of the punnet. The rhizome will root into the punnet and can be cut off without damaging the parent plant.
3. One way of creating warmth in your fernery is tacking plastic over the outside of the fernery during the winter months.
4. Sporelings can be grown in 50/50 mixture of leaf mould and fern fibre - the leaf mould provides sustenance when the sporelings shoot. Harold Olney's mixture for growing maiden hair ferns "from the cradle to the grave" is 50% leaf mould, 40% tree fibre, 10% cow manure and a little lime. Consequently there is little medium changeover from the time that Harold grows the spore to the potting stage.
5. A palette knife (used by artists) is a good implement to chop up an area of young sporelings without damaging the roots. This member also puts the sporelings into water to separate them before planting out, thus avoiding damage to the root structure. The soil sinks to the bottom of the water.
6. Three wire coathangers can make an inexpensive hanging basket frame for a 6" - 7" pot if you need a hanging basket in a hurry. The wires are bent around a template to ensure length. Two rings are then bent into full circle, soldered at the top and a rigid frame is the result.

QUESTIONNAIRE SUCCESSFUL!

At the time of going to press, the Secretary has received 61 completed questionnaires, a good response. The information received will help the Society plan its future direction to service members' needs.

Pam Montgomery has volunteered to analyse the replies and prepare a brief analysis for the Executive Committee.

Replies will be accepted until the June General Meeting. Survey forms will also be available at the June Meeting for members who did not attend the May Meeting.

REHABILITATION THROUGH HORTICULTURE

Our Publicity Officer, Geoff Echberg, has for many years believed that youths from broken homes and others at The Basin, Tally Ho, Turana, etc., should be taught horticulture as well as building trades.

His theory is that many become builders' labourers, bricklayers' labourers, many of whom congregate at hotels on pay night and again on Saturdays.

It diverted to horticulture, not so many may find their way to Pentridge and other prisons.

Since the first Committee Meeting of the Fern Society, he has advocated that prisoners at Morwell River Prison Farm should be taught to grow tree ferns from spore and later to saleable size in the Gippsland chocolate soil gullies where the prisoners, under the direction of the Forest Commission, plant one million Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus Regnans*) and one million *Pinus Radiata* each year.

In 1981 he drafted a letter, sent to Dr. Jona, then Minister of Community Welfare, seeking prisoners' involvement in growing tree ferns, etc.

Geoff has made several visits to Morwell River Prison Farm and Won Wron Prison near Yarrum, also to Fairlea Womens Prison, where he is acting as a consultant to start a Plant Nursery.

Mrs Perry of East Bentleigh, has donated, for Fairlea, small ferns that she has grown from spore. Fairlea prisoners are to re-establish ground ferns collected by Morwell River prisoners from areas where Pines are to be planted but not *Eucalyptus* areas where they would grow under the gums. Geoff has supplied heavy duty black plastic nursery bags in which Fairlea prisoners can re-establish the ferns. He would like to hear from any members who could supply him with ferns, prothalus or spore for the Fairlea Prison Fern growing project.

He started a Garden Club at Pentridge about 12 years ago and is negotiating with the President of the 1,000-plus-strong Waverley Garden Club, Mr. Ern Kettle, to plan and construct a garden outside the new entrance to Fairlea Prison.

Pentridge has had an excellent garden outside their main entrance for years.

BUYERS' GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIESQUEENSLAND

MORANS HIGHWAY NURSERY
 Box 47, Woombye 4559
 1km north of Big Pineapple
 Turn right into Kell Road, Woombye
 Wholesale & Retail
 (079) 42 1613

VICTORIA

ALLGOOD PLANTS & FERNS
 Main Road, Emerald, Victoria
 Closed Mondays
 A.H. (059) 68 4858
 Retail

"FERN GLEN"
 Garfield North, Victoria

FERNS - WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
 VISITORS WELCOME

"MARION'S FERNERY"
 4 Hope Street, Rosebud 3939

TASMANIA

TASFERNS
 3 Mimosa Court, Berriedale, 7011
 Retail of outdoor ferns, specializing
 in spore-grown Tasmanian native ferns,
 some mainland and some exotic.

NEW SOUTH WALES

GREEN FROND FERNERY
 39 Fisher Road
 MARAYLYA N.S.W. 2765
 Near Windsor, N.S.W.

Wholesale Propagation Sporelings
 Phone: (045) 73 6207



Maxicrop

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

Seaweed contains over sixty different trace elements and numerous naturally-occurring growth factors, many of which are known to be important for plant growth and development.

VICTORIA: 4/375 Bayswater Rd., Bayswater.
Vic. 3153. Tel. Melb. (03) 720 2200
P O BOX 302 Bayswater Vic. 3153

ADIANTUM HISPIDULUM

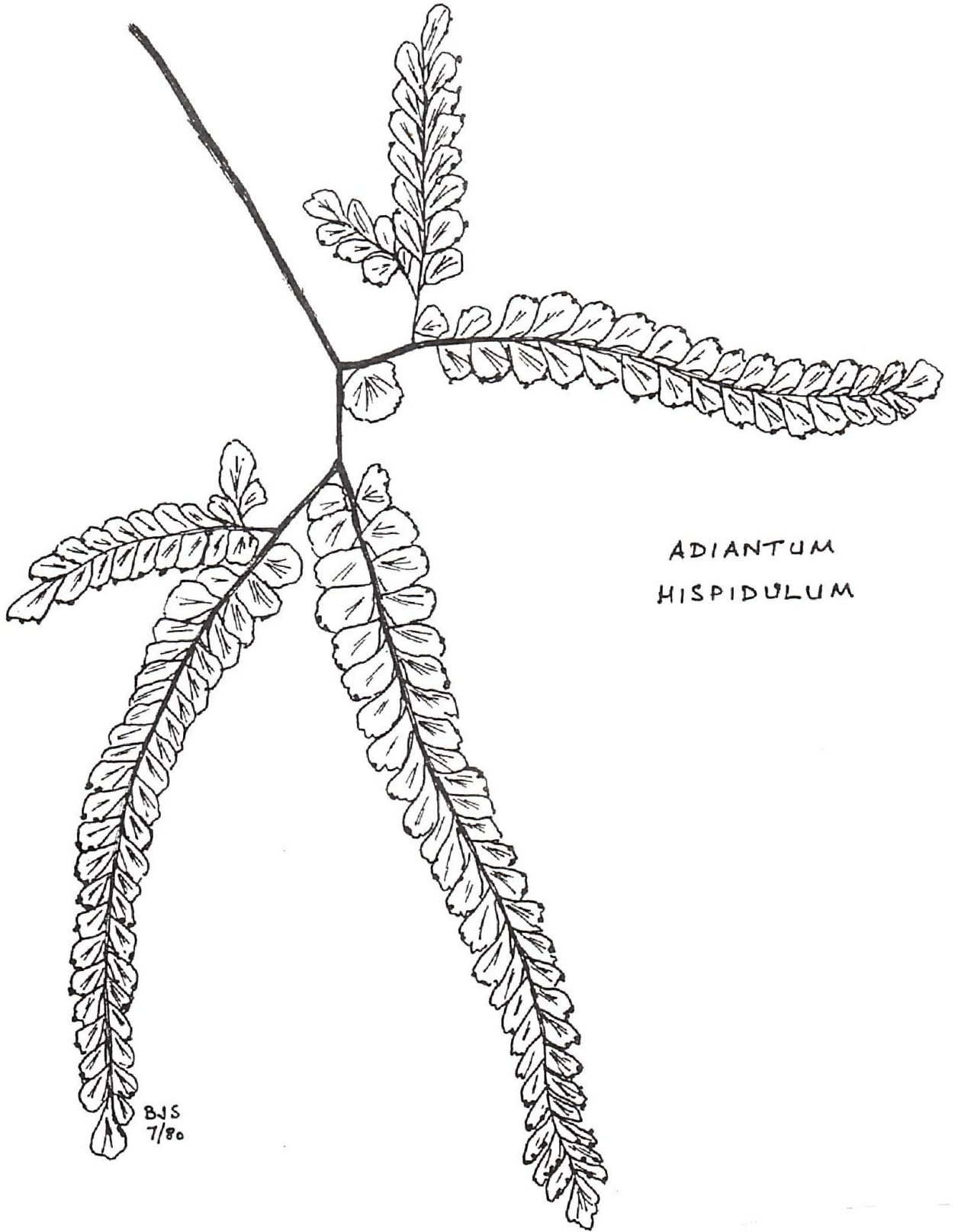
The Rough Maidenhair Fern is almost cosmopolitan in its distribution. It ranges from South Africa through India, Malaya and Indonesia to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, and has also become naturalised in the south eastern United States of America.

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

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

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

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



ADIANTUM
HISPIDULUM

BJS
7/80

CORRESPONDENCE FROM FAR.....

FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE!

Dot Forte gave the Secretary the following translation of a letter received from Moscow. It seems growing ferns is one way to overcome political differences!

14.3.1983

Dear Mr. Bradford,

We have learned with interest that Melbourne has a botanical circle whose members are devoted to the cultivation of ferns.

We are pleased to establish contact with your circle, as we also are interested in similar matters, though we do not have any temperate climate flora from Australia in our collection.

Concerning ferns from the flora of the Soviet Union, it appears that we have some 125 varieties; but the majority are widely spread throughout Eurasia and are, no doubt, well know to you.

The most interesting and rare varieties of ferns grow in the forests of the Caucasus and the Far East.

I think that in the matters of shade and water they will grow well in Melbourne.

In our collection there are such rare decorative varieties as - *Dryopteris amurensis*, *D. laeta*, *Polystichum tripterum*, *Athyrium rubripes*, *Conniogramme intermedia* (the Far East), *Osmunda regalis* (the Caucasus), and others.

All these form spores in Moscow, and in August 1983, we will with pleasure, send you a fresh harvest of spores from these varieties.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) P.A. Karpisonova
Scientific worker of the Principal
Botanical Garden.
Academy of Sciences, USSA.

..... AND NEAR !

The President
"Fern Society of Victoria"

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Just a short note of thanks to yourself and members for the opportunity given to me to share our common interest in ferns; and renew the association of several old friends. Particularly would I like to thank Secretary, Keith Stubbs, for the efficient organisation of the visit; also to Vice President Bill Taylor for his assistance on arrival, and also for the visit he arranged to The Botanical Gardens accompanied by his charming wife and a most co-operative young man from the Gardens staff. Thanks also to my old friends Chris and Lorraine Goudey and family for the opportunity to visit them and view their magnificent display of ferns; making a fine finish to a most enjoyable experience.

Congratulations to all concerned on the efficiency of "THE SOCIETY" which I am sure shall continue to grow and spread enjoyment and knowledge to an even larger audience of members.

Yours sincerely

RAYMOND BEST

WAYMAR FERN NURSERY - 63 Athol Road, Noble Park Phone: 546 5383
Native and tropical ferns for sale. Hanging baskets and tree fern logs.

This month's special:

Full baskets of Green Grub Fern (P. Loricum) - \$10.00

Large baskets of Drynaria Rigidula - \$10.00 each

Good size Tassel Ferns from \$7.00

New stock arriving all the time.

A SELECTION OF ASPLENIUMS CULTIVATED IN AUSTRALIA - BY CHRIS GOUDEY
Continued from earlier issue

Asplenium lyallii

Lyall's Spleenwort is native to New Zealand and the Chatham Islands. It was formerly known as *A. lucidum* var *Lyallii*. *A. anomodum* has been rejected as being a separate species and is now recognised as *A. lyallii* also. The species usually grows in dry open forest in calcareous soils, and is often found in limestone areas.

Like most other New Zealand *Asplenium* species, this fern hybridises in the wild with at least three other species of *Asplenium*. An attractive slow growing fern that is hardy in a sheltered position.

A. nidus

A widespread tropical fern more commonly known as the Birds Nest Fern. *A. nidus* ranges from India through Malaysia to Japan and south to the north east tip of Australia, as far south as the Iron Range on Cape York Peninsula. The Birds Nest or Crows Nest fern usually grows as an epiphyte on trees and rotting logs and often in amongst rocks or on cliffs where there is perfect drainage.

This fern has a large rosette of simple fronds that can grow up to 4 feet (1-1/3m) under ideal conditions. The nest catches dead leaves which rot down and provide nutrient for the host and the epiphytes that often grow with it.

Many curious and unusual varieties of this fern are in cultivation, some are distinctively lobed, others are crisped or variegated, etc.

A. nidus var. *plicatum*

A recent introduction into Australia and the United States from Malaysia, where it is believed to be a mutant form of *A. nidus*. Also known as the Lasagna fern, it makes a very handsome subject. However, it is more difficult to grow than the species preferring glasshouse conditions and temperatures above 60°F (15°C).

A. nidus var. *multilobum*

This variety was named by F.M. Bailey, but is now regarded as a horticultural cultivar.

A. nidus var. *musifolia*

A native to Malaya, this variety differs slightly in frond shape to the species, it is also a tender fern, requiring glasshouse conditions similar to var. *Crispafolium*.

A. nidus cv. *variegata*

Another mutant form of *A. nidus* is in cultivation in north Queensland. This fern does not always come true from spores and is therefore rare in cultivation.

Many other birds nest ferns occur throughout the same range as *A. nidus*, some of which are mentioned as follows:

Continued next page

A. australasicum

This fern is almost identical to *A. nidus*, the most noticeable difference being the shape of the mid rib; also the fronds on this fern don't seem to be as glossy. *A. australasicum* is a much larger fern. Under ideal conditions fronds of this fern can grow up to 6 feet (2 m) in length.

This fern is native to the east coast of Australia from the Atherton Tablelands south to Wollongong in New South Wales. It also occurs on Lord Howe Island and Polynesia.

A. australasicum is an attractive, hardy fern that can tolerate temperatures below freezing in a sheltered situation.

A. curtisorum

A most attractive species that has bluish grey fronds with a pale transparent line along the margin of the leaf. A slow growing tropical species.

A. cymbifolium

Another Malaysian species quite similar to *A. australasicum*, this species, I am told, catches and holds water within the nest leaves, and is often frequented by small frogs.

A. robinsonii

This rare species is endemic to Norfolk Island, it is closely related to *A. nidus*, and could be a mutant form of that species.

A. simplicifrons

Another common species native to the rainforests of north eastern Queensland, where it grows in similar situations to *A. australasicum*.

A. simplicifrons has long slender strap-like simple fronds up to 2 feet (60 cm) in length, and no more than 1 1/4 inches (3 cm) wide. This attractive species is hardy in southern Australia.

A. obtusatum

A maritime fern that usually only grows in rock crevices just above the high waterline along the coast of southern Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific islands and South America. This species has a close relative (*Asplenium marinum*) which inhabits coastal regions in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Shore Spleenwort is an extremely variable fern throughout its range. P.J. Brownsey, N.Z. Journal of Botany Vol 15 has recognized one subspecies in New Zealand as well as the species.

A. obtusatum sub sp. *Northlandicum* Brownsey. Bass Straight and Wilsons Promontory forms are much larger and quite different to the more northern forms, and could well be a subspecies. Various authors in the past have suggested that this form could be close to, if not, *Asplenium aucklandicum*. But this New Zealand fern is no longer recognised as a separate species, it appears to be a hybrid.

Continued overleaf

A. obtusitum var difforme

A similar fern with more divided fronds occurs along the coast of northern New South Wales as well as Norfolk Island and possibly other Pacific Islands. This variety is quite attractive and is easily cultivated in a glasshouse with a minimum temperature of 55°F (13°C).

A. paleaceum

This species is native to north eastern Queensland where it usually occurs in rainforest. *A. paleaceum* is a hardy fern that often grows on rocky slopes, or on boulders in or near mountain streams. The fronds develop bulbils near the axis, which often results in the formation of large clumps of this fern. An easily cultivated, slow growing fern that is hardy in southern Australia.

A. pellucidum

A wide spread tropical fern native to Madagascar, India, Indo-China, Malaysia, New Guinea and north east Queensland. This species has recently been found in the Palmorston Valley and is a new discovery for Australia. *A. pellucidum* is a lowland species, that usually grows on mossy branches of trees, and also on rocks in wet rain forest. It has a short creeping rhizome, densely clothed with dark brown to black scales. This fern is erect, with pinnate, lanceolate fronds, normally up to 3 feet (1 m) in length, however, Australian material is much smaller. The sori are released into small oblong cups that appear as pimples on the upper surface of the frond. *A. pellucidum* is hardy in cultivation but requires glasshouse conditions with a minimum of 55°F (13°C).

A. polyodon

An extremely variable fern native to a wide area. It ranges from tropical Africa to Asia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and the three eastern states of Australia.

This fern has undergone many name changes in recent times, and has been known as *A. praemorsum*, *A. adiantoides*, *A. condatum*, a more recently *A. falcatum*. Commonly known as the Willow Spleenwort, this fern is an exceedingly handsome and decorative species, particularly the larger forms. The large form of this fern usually grows as an epiphyte and fronds can attain an over all length of up to 4 feet (133 cm). The smaller pinnate-pinnatifid form usually grows in rock crevices. The two forms are quite different and were once regarded as separate species. The large form of this fern is quite handy in cultivation in a sheltered position, but the pinnate-pinnatifid form can be quite troublesome.

A. pteridioides

A beautiful finely cut species that is endemic to Lord Howe Island. This fern has fronds that are broadly ovate-lanceolate in outline, with broad lanceolate pinnae that are deeply pinnatifid, sori are linear usually one to a lobe. This attractive species occurs on Mount Lidgebird and Mount Gower and is by no means common on the Island. It is a most desirable fern that is hardy in cultivation.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY
JUNE 9TH: MARY FROST
Native Ferns of
North East Victoria

THURSDAY
JULY 14TH: Speaker to be
advised.

THURSDAY
AUGUST 11TH: Annual General
Meeting and
demonstrations.

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



JUDY BIELICKI'S
EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Box 106,
Ivanhoe, Victoria 3079

First Floor
153 Upper Heidelberg Road,
Ivanhoe, Victoria 3079

Telephone
4971913 492937

