

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 7 AUGUST, 1983

#### OFFICE-BEARERS

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member,

People who become involved in cultivating a collection of ferns must surely qualify as a special group of human beings. To obtain this distinction it appears that fern lovers must pass a series of tests which occur in clearly defined stages.

The "tests" include such activities as choosing our first ferns, purchasing our first reference books and building our first fern house. Then come the first feelings of pride and delight when the plants grow well. Next we have "expansion" to contend with; a larger fern house becomes imperative as does the installation of all sorts of equipment. We would even seriously consider trying to improve our spore raising equipment by the introduction of an electric blanket!

The fanaticism of an American fern lover was graphically illustrated to our Society members at the July meeting. Mr. Milton Piedra of Miami, Florida had made his collection of slide photographs available to us, and through viewing these we were able to conclude that fern lovers in America are no different to ourselves. They too are afflicted with a similar "madness". The slides described buildings, inevitable building extensions, fittings; individual specimens of ferns in magnificent condition, and automatic watering and fertilizing systems. Mr. Piedra enjoys living in an ideal climate; many of his fern houses did not need to be enclosed, most walls being lined with spaced lathes to provide a free passage of fresh air and to keep the interior cool.

We are indebted to Chris Goudey for his initiative in procuring the slides, for screening them and for his extremely helpful comments throughout the presentation. It was all most interesting and enjoyable and our sincere thanks are accorded to Chris.

Congratulations Milton Piedra on your enterprise, success with your ferns and for briefly sharing it all with us.

Rod Hill Resigns: The Executive Committee has regretfully accepted the resignation of Rod Hill as the Society's Spore Bank Manager. Rod has decided to relinquish the task which he has so capably and efficiently performed since the Fern Society began. He hopes that the time now available will enable him to pursue other interests. His involvement with the Fern Society will in no other way be diminished.

Thank you Rod for your dedication to an extremely valuable part of the Society's program. ¥

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, FOLLOWED BY A A SERIES OF DEMONSTRATIONS BY MEMBERS

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE !

Continued from previous page

Fourth Annual General Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at the Burnley Horticultural College Hall on Thursday, 14th August commencing at 8.00 p.m.

The business of the evening will be to receive the Executive's Report on the Society's activities for the preceding year.

To present and adopt the Treasurer's Report.

To conduct an Election of Office Bearers for 1983/84.

After the formal business has been transacted, the meeting will revert to the normal routine of a monthly general meeting.

The outstanding success of the "Beginners and Gadget Night" last May has prompted the Committee to run a repeat presentation. Albert Jenkins will show us how to make fern baskets from wire mesh. Bernard Coleman will speak on the use of portable gas as a glass house heat source and Harold Onley will explain how a pot belly stove provides heat necessary for his tropical maiden hairs. In addition to all this, Bill Taylor will contribute a mini-talk entitled, "Mistakes".

Nephrolepis Cordifolia has so much to offer that it would have to be high on a short list of ferns with which we could start a fern collection. It is a typical fishbone type and probably produces more stolons per plant than any other Nephrolepis. I have had the privilege of seeing this fern growing in its natural habitat at the Natural Arch National Park, south east Queensland, the Carnarvan Gorge National Park, outback Queensland and the Minyon Falls National Park, north east N.S.W. In each of these locations the fern was a most beautiful decoration for moist rock faces and the upper areas of fallen and rotting tree trunks.

N. Cordifolia will tolerate full sun; it can be grown in the garden but needs to be rather ruthlessly controlled. It appears to adapt to any type of soil although I expect that it would reject one which is saline. Contrary to Cordifolia's willingness to tolerate harsh conditions and neglect, it will respond beautifully to a good potting mixture and a softer environment. By softer environment I mean an unheated glasshouse or a glassed-in porch.

The fronds of N. Cordifolia grow upright and can be trained and made elegant by tying tiny flat washers to the ends of the fronds so that they arch attractively. The washers are taken off when the fern is used for decoration in the home, or for public exhibition. For quite some time afterwards the fronds will retain the lovely arched appearance.

> with kindest regards DOUG THOMAS

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# Schedule I

## FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30th JUNE, 1983

Expenditure	ş	Income	\$
Hire Fees Newsletters Postage Printing & Stationery Committee Expenses Guest Speakers Raffle Bank Charges Library Treasurer's Expenses	625.00 4,551.49 761.56 1,911.21 571.71 373.65 61.31 31.97 85.65 24.46	Subscriptions Tea Money Badges/Posters Spore Sales Plant Sales Special Effort Bank Interest Show Receipts Advertising Sundry Receipts	4,508.65 58.80 147.50 506.75 2,908.34 549.30 419.50 1,520.00 95.30 146.00
Sundry Expenses Surplus for Period	47.21 2,615.38 \$11,660.60	Lawn Mower Raffle	700.46

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Schedule II

## FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th JUNE, 1983

Accumulated Funds	\$ 3,832.34	
ADD Surplus for period	2,615.38	\$6,447.72
Represented by:		
Savings Investment Account	\$ 4,842.85	
Current Bank Account	1,584.87	
Cash on Hand	20.00	\$6,447.72

#### WE WERE WRONG

On page 4 of last month's newsletter a paragraph entitled "Nominations for Office Bearers" was incorrect, due to a typographical omission.

The correct version of this paragraph appears below. I do apologise to Mr. Keith Stubbs and to the members of the Fern Society for any confusion or inconvenience caused.

#### JUDY BIELICKI

#### NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS

Nominations for office bearers and Executive Committee must be in the Secretary's hands in writing not less than 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Nominations may be received from members at the Annual General Meeting only if insufficient nominations have been received previously to fill all vacancies. Consent of all nominees must be received prior to the election and nominations will be accepted only from financial members.

> K.N. STUBBS SECRETARY



A MESSAGE FROM SHE-WHO-LOOKS-AFTER-THE-MONEY !

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due. Please send your renewal subscription as soon as possible, so that you will continue to receive the newsletter. (September issue is the cut-off point, so don't miss out!)

Subscriptions should be sent to our Treasurer, P.O. Box 45, HEIDELBERG WEST, 3081

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA - SUBSCRIPTION FEES - 1983-84

Single Membership	:	\$ 8.50	Family Membership	:	\$10.50
Single Pensioner	:	\$ 5.50	Full-time Student	:	\$ 5.50
Overseas Membership	:	\$12.00	2 Married Pensioners	:	\$ 7.50

Owing to the fact that a great number of our Society members live in the country, interstate, or overseas, I would like to clarify my talk at our May meeting, so that it will be understood in the context of my exhibits, and my talk in general on that night.

We do value the support of all our members and wish the information we pass on to be understood, and if possible to help solve any difficulty some of our members may be experiencing.

As I have been in attendance at two to three Fern Shows per year for , the last five years, and have spoken to many garden clubs etc., by far , the most pressing question has always been, "how do I grow my ferns inside. Can I grow them in central heating premises, etc?"

My talk in general was addressed to this situation. I would like to . point out that in Melbourne we have two problems during the winter, first, as mentioned in the newsletter April issue 1983, page 9, a great lack of light intensity. Very little sunshine and also winter chills. Not only are the hours of sunshine very limited but the sun is at no more than 29° to the horizontal in winter and the light intensity suffers.

Now concerning growing ferns inside, there are two conditions that must be met.

Humidity
 Light intensity

If ferns are grown in a pot or tub in a heated room, the pot becomes overheated and burns off or dries out the feeder roots that you will notice are generally found between the pot and soil. There are three ways of overcoming this difficulty to varying degrees.

- A saucer of coarse sand say at least 4 inches wider in diameter than the base of the pot, kept damp at all times which provides humidity by evaporation.
- 2. Double potting method. Plant fern in a terra cotta pot say 3" greater in diameter. Place sufficient charcoal in the base of the plastic pot to bring the tops of both pots up to the same level, sphagnum moss and keep damp. As the plastic pot warms it causes evaporation between the pots thus setting up humidity for the plant. The air movement through the drainage holes in the plastic pot and through the sphagnum moss causes cooling of the terra cotta pot and maintains good humidity for your fern.
- 3. So far this next method I have found to be the best, and this is the one I spoke of and demonstrated at our May meeting. Last September, I purchased a Drynaria rigidula C.V. Whitei and planted it in a standing pot hollowed from a piece of Dixonia Antarctica tree fern trunk. Owing to the drought and very hot summer, it was not doing too well so I transferred it into the lounge room where I placed it in a large saucer on a pedestal by a window facing north where it gets full sun through the glass during the winter months. I have kept a small amount of water with Maxi Crop in the saucer and have watered it with my favorite fertilizer i.e. equal parts of Maxi Crop and Nitrosol weekly. This keeps the treefern pot damp and provides humidity. This fern has exceeded all my

expectations, the widest frond so far measuring ll inches across, and in the last month, mid-winter, has produced eight new fronds. I do not fertilize my ferns in the shade house with my Maxi Crop nitrosol mixture during winter months but do use 1/4 to 1/3 strength Maxi Crop with each watering, the benefit being I have a good healthy root system ready for early spring.

Another correction is the soil mix mentioned. That was demonstrated with an Asplenium Australasicum (birds nest fern) an epiphyte planted in a tree fern pot, which needs an open well drained mix. I have various mixes for other ferns.

Wishing all happy fern growing.

ALBERT JENKINS

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Accommodation is available within walking distance of The Big Pineapple and Nursery in overnite vans or brick veneer cabins (5 persons) from \$15 - write to Box 65, Woombye, 4559 or phone (071) 42 1621 (WOOMBYE CARAVAN PARK) Interstate bus will stop at Nursery or Caravan Park.

SPORE LIST - Species in Short Supply - AUGUST:

Spore samples may be purchased at monthly meetings, or by sending a list of your requirements with 20 cents for each species requested plus 50 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").

If ordering species from this list, please include a supplementary list in case supplies of some species are depleted. All species listed in the July newsletter should still be available.

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

SPORE LIST SPECIES IN SHORT SUPPLY - AUGUST

ADIANTUM SP. (S.E. QLD) (2-83) ARACHNIODES ARISTATA VARIEGATA (3-83) ARTHROPTERIS TENELLA (5-83) ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA 'CRISTATA' (8-81) CIBOTIUM REGALE (5-82) CONIOGRAMME JAPONICA 'VARIEGATA' (3-83) CYATHEA SP. (PRICKLY/MALAYSIA) (10-82) SP. (SLENDER/SINGAPORE) (10-82) CYSTOPTERIS BULBIFERA (8-81) DIPLAZIUM ASSIMILE (5-83) DOODIA CAUDATA (2-83) GLEICHENIA RUPESTRIS (8-81) LASTREOPSIS MARGINANS (5-83) MUNITA (5-83) LUNATHYRIUM JAPONICUM (2-83) MICROSORIUM PARKSII (10-82) ONYCHIUM JAPONICUM (2-83) OSMUNDA CINNAMOMEA (12-6-83) CLAYTONIANA (5-6-83) PTERIS CRETICA 'ALBOLINEATA ' (3-83) MULTIFICA (11-82) THELYPTERIS SPP. (CANADA) (8-81)



<u>Blechnum nudum 'Furcans'</u> is the name suggested by Chris Goudy for an interesting form of <u>Blechnum nudum</u> that I discovered in south Gippsland some 12 or so years ago. It differs from the normal form in having small, irregularly forked crests (about 1½ - 2 cm long) at the ends of the pinnae and a similar, larger crest at the tip of the frond. At this stage it is not known whether this form comes true from spore or not. Unfortunately, the crests do not appear until plants are reasonably large (40 - 50 cm), so that experiments with propagation of this plant are a fairly long-term project.

### Cyathea sp. (Taiwon) (or Cyathea spinulosa)

Spore under this name was available through the spore bank early in 1980. Unfortunately, this spore came to me incorrectly labelled and I corrected the error in the newsletter of October 1980. I will repeat that correction, because plants with this label are starting to appear in the nursery trade in Victoria (and have been available interstate for some time). <u>All</u> of the plants I have seen sold under this name have in fact been <u>Macrothelypteris polypodioides</u>. This is itself a most graceful plant, with long, arching light-green fronds and an attractive, slightly-creeping, surface rhizome covered in very white scales, but it is not C. spinulosa

In the tropics Macrothelypteris is a common "ring-in" in spore cultures and this is probably how this mistake originated.

Since this month will be my last in charge of the Spore Bank, I would like to part with a few words of thanks to those who have contributed to the success of the spore bank in the past 3 or so years either by donating spore and the vast supply of film and slide boxes (which have enabled me to provide spore to our country and interstate members) or by purchasing spore. Special thanks for their consistent support must go to Harold Olney and the managers of the S.G.A.P. Fern Study Group spore bank, Ray Best, Gwen Hardwick and Phyllis Brown.

### IMPORTANCE OF GOOD DRAINAGE

When plastic pots were first manufactured the drainage consisted of one hole in the base. This, when placed on a flat surface, was of little use so two side slots were added. Although better, during the cooler months of our Victorian climate when transpiration was nil and the pots could not "breathe", (as terra cotta pots do) drainage was not a complete success.

Manufacturers now have up to eight Side Slots and a domed base but even then I find Horticultural Charcoal of great benefit. I sifted the charcoal through the 4cm sieve and then used the finer particles to mix into my potting mix (one part to fifty). The larger pieces I use at the bottom of each pot, 10cm depth for 4" pots, 30cm for larger pots.

I also hammer some charcoal into a fine powder to dust onto Rhizomes when cut during division. This gives excellent protection against fungi and bacterial rot.

Be sure to use only Horticultural Charcoal, never incinerator ash as this can be quite devastating to a potted fern.

A repeat of some thoughts Gary Lawes left with us during his talk July 1980.

We should love ferns for their natural beauty; to be able to enjoy them is the most important reason for having them.

Endeavour to copy the natural conditions in which ferns grow - nature knows best.

Most people say that they are afraid to talk to experts, particularly if they do not know the botanical names. Please do not worry. The people here in the Society are the best - they really are your friends, and I wonder if we know how lucky we are.

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#### ADIANTUM'S EMERALD FOREST

Miamian Fern Hobbyist Describes How He Developed an Environment to Grow All the Maidenhairs He Wanted - and More!

#### by Milton Piedra



ABOUT THE AUTHOR .....

AUTHOR - ADIANTUM SPECIALIST

He is executive secretary for a contracting firm in Florida. He founded and organized the International Tropical Fern Society, and currently serves as its editor and Board Chairman.

In addition, Milton also was involved with the founding of the South Florida and the West Palm Beach Fern Societies.

I have a severe problem. Maidenhairs run rampant over my shade house. The problem at first appeared insignificant. Some 15 to 20 maidenhairs along with a host of other ferns were housed in the southeast corner of my residence in a 12' x 12' structure. This shade house was made up of four-by-fours and two-by-fours of treated cypress wood, which served as the box shell. The perimeter and roof were covered with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1" treated cypress slats, spaced 1" apart. Roof slats ran north and south to provide equal amount of light as the sun travelled from east to west. The entire structure was then wrapped with a 70% shade screen. The floor mainly consisted of white river gravel, about 6 inches in depth.

Along the east side of the slat or shade house, a 12' table was erected from wall to wall. The frame consisted of the same material used for the structure and on it were placed sheets of plastic eggcrate which were commonly used in kitchen ceilings at that time. Potted ferns were set on the egg-crate in order to keep the wooden frame of the table free of moisture. The plant baskets were hung in rows from the cross beams that ran east and west, spaced three feet on center.

Considering that this was my first experience, the maidenhairs did very well. But it was a bit too dark and although they grew all right, they were sort of sparse. The care was high maintenance, consisting of watering every other day by hose with a gentle spray to avoid spilling the soil out of the pots or baskets and lightly fertilizing every two weeks with liquid fertilizer (6-6-6, 8-8-8, 10-10-10 or fish emulsion - whatever was available at the time - two teaspoons to a gallon of water).

Many years passed and the acquisition of additional maidenhairs and other plants made it necessary for me to enlarge the 12' x 12' structure. My next door neighbor, who happened to be an excellent carpenter and just finishing a project, undertook the task of building the new home for my ferns. The old shade house was demolished and in its place arose a 20' x 15' shade house.

The new shade house was built similar to the old one (box-type) but with several improvements.

#### Continued from previous page

A visit to the Florida Power and Light Co. pole yard located in the back of the North Dade Community College campus resulted in acquisition of creosoted poles that were 8" in diameter and 20 feet or more in length. Although having been in service, these poles were in excellent condition and they were free, provided you hauled them away. They were cut to 15' lengths and spaced 5' apart along the outside of the new shade house. They were then embedded into the ground in three feet of concrete. One was placed in the center of the shade house to hold the six-by-six beams that ran north and south. Four-by-four beams ran east and west and rested on the six-by-sixes. The same type of slats cover the exterior shell.

Experience being the best teacher, no screening was employed this time. The results were instantly noticeable - a more light and airy shade house.

Road or wire mesh, the type used in concrete slabs, was nailed to the underside of the beams across the entire ceiling. From this mesh the hanging baskets were set in place. The mesh allowed the hanging baskets to be positioned anywhere in the shade house instead of the previous row system. This system provided a better view of the baskets from all angles and at different heights.

The installation of two double eight-foot fluorescent fixtures attached underneath the six-by-six beams afforded light in the late evening for viewing the ferns and plants.

A 5' high planter in a figure eight shape was built around the center pole. This planter was filled with white river gravel. Potted ferns along with other tropical plants were placed inside the planter. The planter was then filled with more white river gravel to hide the pots. More gravel was also added to the enlarged floor area.

Some 70 maidenhairs (one of a kind), which had been sitting in the back yard under trees, were moved into new location along with a smattering of other ferns, begonias, bromeliads and aroids - few in number compared to the maidenhairs that formed the large majority. After all the plants had been placed - would you believe - the new addition looked too small.

In any event, the very same watering and fertilizing program was continued as before. It wasn't too long before the maidenhairs as well as the other plants started to grow in height and width. I noticed that the ferns were a bit more dense in growth, too. I attributed this mainly to the increase in light in comparison to the old shade house.

It wasn't even two years before the shade house once again became over-crowded due to the growth of the plants and the slight increase in sporelings of the maidenhairs which were now beginning to show up in many places. Before it became an acute problem, two carpenters showed up in the late summer of 1979 to add a second addition.

Two and a half months later it was all completed, giving me 1,400 square feet of space. The new addition like its predecessor contained some improvements but these turned out to be major. Among the improvements were six-by-six posts placed every 20 feet on the perimeter of the new area. A split-level roof was erected. The lower roof is 12' in height and the higher roof 18' to accommodate the large specimen plant viz., Nephrolepis biserrata 'Furcans' (fishtail fern) whose diameter is six feet or more and is ten feet from top to bottom; Polypodium subauriculatum 'Knightiae', 3 feet wide and 6 feet from top to bottom; Woodwardia orientalis (one of the mother ferns from the Orient) whose spreading fronds take in an area of 6 feet in all directions; finally Platycerium bifurcatum (the common staghorn) which must weigh in excess of 200 pounds and cover an area of 7 feet in diameter. These plants all hang from swivels that are attached to the cross beams. The lower roof supports a huge specimen of Polypodium scolopendrium, which measures 5½ feet in all directions; Adiantum anceps, A. peruvianum (Silver Dollar), and A. formosum, each a 3 to 4 foot specimen; and a variety of other ferns.

The roofs were sloped slightly and the same construction method as in the previous addition using the wire mesh. Instead of using slats, screenings in various degrees were employed. Overhead the shade is 65%, to the west 70%, and to the east and south 20% due to the background of a small rainforest consisting of palm trees and other tropical trees. In the southwest corner stands the so-called treefern forest, where the tallest treefern, a 15 foot Sphaeropteris cooperi, stands in all its glory. Along the east, south and west portions of the new addition, raised planter beds were installed. Four-by-fours left over from construction serve as free-flowing curbs. The potted ferns were buried into the gravel and then the area was lightly covered with cypress and redwood mulch. When the beds were finished the walkways between the beds were 2½ feet to 3 feet in width. These walkways meander through the new addition and into the old section of the shade house.

On the north side of the new area a 50 foot long table similar to the one in use in the old section was erected and potted maidenhairs were placed in this area leading with a group of rough maidenhairs like hispidulum, diaphanum, diplazium, pulverulentum, and petiolatum. These are followed by the odd maidenhairs such as hemsleyanum, 'Pacotti', 'Bessoniae', excisum, 'Cunningham' (the blue maidenhair) and 'Scintilla', and finally a few of the more delicate type such as 'Pelican', 'Triumph', 'Cluster Glory', 'Dissected Leaflet', 'Gracillimum', Micropinnulum', and 'Charlotte Parvifolium'. The table continues to wind its way around the entire periphery of the old shade house. If the entire table were placed in a straight line it would be more than 110 feet long. The maidenhairs in this area are much larger potted specimens; therefore, the tables appear jammed. Such Adiantums as californicum, fragrantissimum, aethiopicum, jordanii, 'Owenii', 'Cathedral', 'Monocolor', 'Bi-color', 'Fergusonii', 'Wrightii', and macrophyllum grace the tables.

It took eight 8 foot chrome 50 fluorescent fixtures to light up the new area alone and two truckloads of gravel were needed to cover the floor to a depth of six inches.

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In the old addition, the slatted roof was removed and in its place white corrugated plastic was nailed down to cover the entire area. This was done in order to protect the more delicate large hanging specimen baskets of 'Victoria's Elegans' grandiceps and its variegated form, 'Splendens', 'Bridal Veil', 'Farleyense', 'Goldelse', bellum, 'Cascade', 'Emerald Dawn', 'Crested Gracillimum', 'Micropinnulum', and others. Besides these maidenhairs there are a few large specimens of the Nephrolepis ferns such as 'Norwoodii', 'Smithii', and 'Whitmanii'.

Finally, the icing on the cake. Heretofore I had been spending three hours every day watering the plants. It took me a total of 6 hours to water all of the plants since I watered half one day and half the other day, giving the plants alternate watering days. Fertilizing on week-ends took most of a full day. The installation of a drip system put an end to any hand watering. The drip system consisted of 1½" plastic tubing running in two rows in both the old and new addition. In the old addition one row ran on the east side and the other on the west side. In the new addition one was installed on the higher roof and the other on the lower. This same tubing ran behind the tables and down three posts to serve all of the floor plants. From this black PVC pipe emerged 1/4" plastic tubings which were placed directly on to the soil of each plant. At the end of each tube for each individual plant there is a little yellow dripper.

Three time clocks were installed on the wall alongside a 30 gallon fertilizing tank situated in the corner of the old shade house. From this location the entire shade house is watered, fertilized and temperature controlled. It works this way:

The first clock is set to go off at 6.00 a.m. every day. This clock in turn sets the second clock into motion. This second clock operates both the water and fertilizing tank for two seconds every five minutes. In other words, every five minutes for two seconds, water containing the fertilizer drips into the soil for all of the plants. The fertilizer and water passes through a filtering system before going on to the plants. The fertilizer in the thirty gallon tank is Instant Shultz, a very highly concentrated form of liquid fertilizer. When the potted plants or baskets become sufficiently moist, the system shuts down for each individual plant until it has shut down completely some two hours later.

This system has additional control valves. If it should rain in the exposed area (new addition) the watering system will not operate there but only in the enclosed area (old addition). Every Wednesday, the fertilizing tank will not operate, giving the watering system a chance to flush out any build-up of salt from daily fertilization. A drop of algae control is placed in the fertilizing tank to assure that the minute feeding tubes are never clogged. Excess water dripping from the pots and hanging baskets onto the gravel floor below creates humid conditions in which the ferns luxuriate. The third clock comes on only when the temperature reaches 75 degrees or more. It controls a high density suction fan that operates so quietly you can hardly hear it. The fan exhausts the warm air from the area allowing the cool moist air from the gravel floor to rise in its place.

This system has been in constant operation without any defects since November of 1979, and it is the greatest joy to get up in the morning and know that my watering and fertilizing have been accomplished automatically. Matter-of-fact, I led a fern foray into Guatemala this year for the International Tropical Fern Society and when I returned one week later, the ferns were in top condition as if I had been around. The only difference was some expended fronds.

Now 197 different varieties of maidenhairs live and proliferate in this area along with a few other ferns, bromeliads, begonias, aroids and three orchids. From the double doors that serve as the entry to my shade house, you can see Adiantum's Emerald Forest and the field of maidenhairs that seem to extend forever. The largest potted specimens are A. trapeziforme (5 ft), cultratum (4 ft), subcordatum (5 ft), and Scutum Roseum (4½ ft). A. lunulatum and caudatum have grown a carpet of their own on the floor and are only prohibited from encroaching on the walkways, as is Selaginella uncinata, the peacock fern.

Sporelings of "you-name-them-Adiantums" have been making their appearances around every basket, the outside of clay pots and on the forest floor. The results have been astronomical and almost defeating, for the place is beginning to look like a jungle despite my daily efforts to keep the place meticulously clean so that it appears to be a showcase every day of the year. You are invited to help yourself to the sporelings if you are ever in town, but you must first tell me how you control maidenhairs from running rampant all over your shade house before I start on my third and final addition which will enclose the entire back yard.

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### VALENTINES FERNERY

80 - 81 Wells Road, SEAFORD

WE SPECIALIZE IN QUALITY FERNS

Map Reference: Melway 99H1 Please enter Wells Road through Patterson Lakes. The Fern Society currently subscribes to various other Fern Clubs around the world. Their magazines or newsletters are available for loan from the library for 10 cents a copy per month. Here is a list of present holdings.

FERN WORLD - San Diego Fern Society

LAIFS - Journal of the Los Angeles International Fern Society

FERN GAZETTE - British Pteridological Society

BAILEYA - Journal of Horticultural Taxonomy

TASMANIAN FERN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

S.G.A.P. FERN STUDY GROUP - Newsletter

GARDENING NEWS - Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria

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### SOMETHING NEW

This new column is for your use, for those members trying to procure a fern that they would like but are unable to find, and those who may have some ferns they would like to sell or exchange.

Our first requests come from Bill Taylor.

BUY	SELL	EXCHANGE	PLANT	MEMBER	PHONE		
~			Adiantum Pedatum	Bill Taylor	277 4310 63 3725		
~			Adiantum Imbricatum	Bill Taylor	277 4310 63 3725		
~			Adiantum Cultratum	Bill Taylor	277 4310 63 3725		
~			Adiantum Phillipense	Bill Taylor	277 4310 63 3725		

#### NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following members who joined the ranks of The Fern Society of Victoria over the past two months.

Mrs. D.G. Barton, 91 Balaclava Road, Caulfield, 3161 Eira Clapp, 16 Alverna Grove, Brighton, 3186 Frederick Crump, 18 Denver Crescent, Mulgrave, 3170 Alan Humphreys, 3 Coach Road, Woodend, 3442 Doris M. Jenkins, R.S.D. A346 Clunes Road, Miners Rest, 3352 William Marshall, 2 Yasman Street, West Preston, 3072 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Robb, R.M.B. 2040, Colac, 3250 Mrs. V. Scheffer, 4/35 Walpole Street, Kew, 3101 Mrs. L.H. Wane, 35 Queen Street, Regent, 3073 Victor William Skilton, R.M.B. 737 Nelson Bay Road, Anna Bay, 2301 Mrs. P. Welman, 121 Denne Street, Tamworth, 2340 Mrs. Theresa Ball, 3 Argo Street, Inala, 4077 Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Adams, 25 Wills Street, Meadows, 3049 Michelle Astridge, 38 Arcade Way, Avondale Heights, 3034 Mrs. Sandra Cousin, Jarramond Road, Orbost, 3888 Mr. & Mrs. G.M. Harkin, "Cowra-Glen", Cowwarr, 3857 Peter F. Hof, 11 Fulham Court, Endeavour Hills, 3802 Mr. Robert Leonard Jack, 2 Banff Street, Reservoir, 3073 Mrs. Gwen Jenkins, Box 460, Orbost, 3888 Wally G. Kennewell, 99 Hotham Road, Sorrento, 3943 Mrs. C.S. Lemaire, 21 Creek Road, Mitcham, 3132 W.G. Martin, C/- Pleasant Creek Special School, P.O. Box 97, Stawell, 3380 Mr. John L. Oliver, 8 Reumah Court, Heathmont, 3135 Pleasant Creek Work Education Centre, Stawell, 3380 Peter Ramsey, 1A Murray Street, Prahran, 3181 Rod Le Rossignol, 90 Scenic Crescent, Eltham, 3095 Raoul Viotto, 23 Young Street, Preston, 3072 Mrs. Shirley Williams, 33 McComas Grove, Burwood, 3125 Mr. G. Jurd, 32 Deptford Avenue, Kings Longley, 2147 David Jones, P.O. Box 261, Palm Beach, 4221



A late addition to the "Buyers' Guide"

BEASLEY'S NURSERY 195 Warrandyte Road DONCASTER EAST Phone: 844 3335

## BUYERS' GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIES

#### QUEENSLAND

MORANS HIGHWAY NURSERY Box 47, Woombye 4559 lkm 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 FROND 7 391 - 393 Maroondah Highway 2 Doors from Kentucky Chicken Retail

"FERN GLEN" Garfield North, Victoria

FERNS - WHOLESALE AND RETAIL VISITORS WELCOME Phone: (056) 292 375

M & G FFROST Frost Road - PEECHELBA (Near Wangaratta) Phone: (057) 269 287

THE FERN FARM KANGAROO FLAT 3555 RETAIL Phone: (054) 478 807

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

MULOORINA FERN NURSERY Freshwater Road, Kilmany via Sale, VICTORIA WHOLESALE (051) 49 2231



WAYNE LONG FERN NURSERY 63 Athol Road, Noble Park, Victoria 546 5383

### 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

FERN NURSERY 6 Nelson Street THORNLEIGH 2120 WHOLESALE & RETAIL Phone: 84 2684

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

Wholesale Propagation Sporelings Phone: (045) 73 6207

#### HIBISCUS GARDENS

Pacific Highway, Tyndale 30 km north of Grafton, N.S.W. Closed Tuesday only Phone: (066) 47 6415 Ferns and other indoor plants with some Hawaiian hibiscus

## NORTH COAST FERN NURSERY Evans Head Road 4 km from Woodburn on right Caters for specialist fern collectors

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



# DIARY DATES

Thursday August ll

Annual General Meeting and demonstrations

Thursday September 8

Greg Bunting speaking on "Conservation Ferns in the Domestic Environment"

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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