

THE FERN  
SOCIETY OF  
VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. VBH3411

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 9 OCTOBER, 1983

OFFICE BEARERS:

PRESIDENT: Doug Thomas, 17 Knaith Road, Ringwood East, 3135. Telephone 870 7229  
 VICE-PRESIDENTS: Albert Jenkins, 11 Morwell Avenue, Watsonia, 3087. Telephone 435 3863  
 Bill Taylor, 1 Princetown Road, Mt. Waverley, 3149. Telephone 277 4310  
 TREASURER: Jean Trudgeon, P.O. Box 45, Heidelberg West, 3081. Telephone 459 4859  
 SECRETARY: Keith Stubbs, 14 Afton Street, Essendon, 3040. Telephone 337 8284  
 BOOK SALES: Lorraine Goudey, Lot 8, Cozens Road, Lara, 3212. Telephone (052) 82 2154  
 PUBLICITY OFFICER: Albert Ward, 82 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084. Telephone 459 4392  
 LIBRARIAN: Bernadette Blackstock, 65 Hobson Street, Newport, 3015. Telephone 391 5517  
 SPORE BANK MANAGER: Bill Bright, 520 Burke Road, Camberwell, 3124. Telephone 82 3589  
 ASSISTANT TREASURER: Roger Flynn, 74 Leamington Street, Reservoir, 3973.  
 EDITOR: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084. Telephone 459 2997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member,

The September General Meeting was very well attended despite a wet, wintry evening. It was highlighted however, by several developments which involved three of our younger members. It certainly is heart-warming to have members who see a need in the Society and do something about it.

Firstly, our Guest Speaker Greg Bunting did an excellent job with his talk "Conservation of Ferns in the Domestic Environment". Greg had prepared his material very well and used slide photographs to supplement his narrative. This was an honest account by a nursery man who is obviously concerned, not only about the damage done to natural fern gullies and rain forests by indiscriminate pulling of native species, but also the plight of the person who buys these "bush pulled" ferns. Greg claimed that such plants were neither acclimatised nor potted into a suitable potting mixture. Their chances of survival after purchase are minimal. Greg's photographs took us into the beautiful Erskine Falls area of the Otway Ranges, Victoria, then into two private collections in South Australia.

Assistant to the Treasurer: We welcome Roger Flynn as assistant to Jean Trudgeon. Roger saw a need in this area, has an interest in accountancy, offered to help and was promptly accepted by the Meeting.

Spore Bank: A young man who appreciates how important the Spore Bank is to the Society is Bill Bright. In a letter to the Society Bill volunteered to take up the work of operating the Spore Bank. We are deeply indebted to him for his action and hope that he will find the work and member-contacts fulfilling and interesting.

Next meeting: Mr. Phil Sheridan, co-proprietor of the Inn-Fernery at Monbulk, Victoria, has accepted an invitation to speak on an aspect of fern culture. At the time of writing these notes, Phil has not informed us as to the title of his talk. However, at their property at Monbulk, the Sheridans enjoy the full spectrum of fern cultivation, from outside fern garden, to glass house, shade house and spore growing cultures. Date: Thursday, 13th October, 1983. Venue: Burnley Horticultural College Hall. Time: Commence 8 p.m.

Committee Action: The newly elected Executive Committee has wasted no time in getting on with the business of studying and implementing innovative ideas submitted by members through the recent questionnaire exercise. I understand that the Committee is considering inviting country and interstate members to contribute their ideas in the same manner.

Continued on next page



(Thursday, 13th October, 1983, 8 p.m. - Burnley)

3

OUR GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE  
MR. PHIL SHERIDAN OF THE INN-FERNERY, OF MONBULK  
AN INTERESTING EVENING IS ASSURED.

\*\*\*\*\*

A field excursion is arranged for the weekend of October 1st and 2nd, to Badger Weir near Healesville, with possibly a second venue in Sherbrooke Forest at Fern Creek. Several fern nurseries in these areas will also be visited. Members of the South Australian Fern Society have been invited to join us for these outings. The areas chosen abound in natural fern species and are always delightful places to see. Our thanks are due to Chris Goudey who has researched and organised the activity.

Several members have indicated that they would appreciate the introduction of social activity into the operation of the Society. The Executive has reacted to this by launching an appeal for members who would be interested in forming a Social Sub-Committee. The function of this sub-committee would be to plan and organise activities of a social nature. Field outings, barbecues, theatre evenings, square dancing, etc. are a few that come to mind. Again, we thank Chris Goudey for undertaking the coordination.

Another request came from members who sought information with respect to the location of natural rain forests and fern gullies. The Committee has asked me to handle this pleasurable task which, like the "Fern Garden" offering, will have to take the form of another serial. I must warn, however, that I will write only about the areas that Ella and I have actually visited and enjoyed. I expect that this will eventually take us through three eastern states.

Victoria: (Wimmera Region)

(a) Silver Band Falls area (Grampians Ranges). A short distance west of the Halls Gap to Dunkeld road about twelve kilometres from Halls Gap. Soft tree ferns (*Dicksonia Antarctica*) and several species of terrestrial ferns in a very attractive setting. Native wildflowers in bloom can be seen in the Grampians at any time of the year but the Spring season is by far the best time. Many native bird species, attracted to the nectar of flowers, shrubs and trees make, a beautiful addition to the pleasure of a visit.

(b) Mitre Rock. For those who like to see the unusual in a fern, a visit to Mitre Rock could prove very interesting. A well established community of skeleton fork fern (*Psilotum Nudum*) grows there. The site is on the north side of the Goroke road about 42 kilometres (25 miles) west of Horsham. A short distance south of Mitre Rock is Mount Arapiles. To find the fork fern one must search in the most unfernlike places on the rock. That is on the north side in full sun, at the base of the monolith about 1.8m (6 feet) from the ground. The Skeleton Fork fern is one of the oldest plants known to Botanists. It is thought by some to be one of the earliest land plants to evolve from sea-weed.

(c) Mount Talbot is another outpost of the Grampians mountain range but is situated on private property directly west of the Black Range. It is reached by passing

Continued overleaf

through a farm gate. The fern attraction on Mount Talbot is quite remarkable. It is Davallia Pyxidata which is found with its woody rhizomes deeply embedded in fissures and cracks in the rock faces. Its aspect faces to the full northern sun. This environment sharply contrasts to the fern's habitat in northern subtropical rain forests where the fern grows as an epiphyte in the back of elk, staghorn or birds nest communities. Mount Talbot is quite easily climbed, affording a magnificent view of the Wimmera region from the top.

Take the Henty Highway from Horsham to Wonwondah, turn south west on the Toolondo road for eighteen kilometres (11-1/4 miles). Turn left at this intersection and follow the minor roads by keeping the Mount in sight. Broadbents Map of Victoria (Western Half) shows these approach roads fairly clearly.

With kindest regards,

Doug Thomas  
Hon. President

\*\*\*\*\*

**MANY SPECIES OF NATIVE FERNS ARE DECLINING, SEPTEMBER MEETING TOLD**

It is very noticeable that many species of native ferns are declining very quickly, September speaker Greg Bunting told the September meeting.

Greg, who is the proprietor of North Balwyn Fernery, lamented the damage being done to rain forests by a breed known to the trade as 'bush pullers'.

"The main destruction now to our rain forests is actually done by collectors, especially in the tropics", he said. "Over 90% of rain forests have been destroyed since the First Fleet". "The incidence of Queensland ferns coming down to Melbourne, often in bootloads with little or no information about them, is slowly coming to a halt." "Many of these have been pulled out of national parks," Greg added.

Many sellers of 'bush pulled' ferns are giving native ferns a bad name. Often the ferns are ripped out the bush, put into a 6" pot with a lot of rocks in the bottom (less soil is used that way) heaps of fertiliser used resulting in rapid growth in the first year. Unfortunately, these ferns often dry out quickly and when the public get them, they often collapse and die. As a result, Victorian ferns have generally been given a bad name.

Greg indicated that many varieties of Victorian ferns are now being grown from spore. He expects that the availability of Victorian ferns grown this way will have increased dramatically by the end of this year. A beneficial side effect should be a considerable drop in retail prices.

One of the reasons why ferns die when taken from their natural habitat and put into a domestic situation is that the collectors are not usually observant about the environment that the ferns grow in. They go into a fern area 'head down, tail up' and do not take any notice of things like the size of trees and plants providing a canopy level and what is growing under what. By being more observant, a better understanding of how to grow ferns in a domestic situation is obtained.

Continued on next page

Greg also made the observation that buying or 'pulling' ferns which need a glass house to survive is an obvious waste of money and a needless despoiling of fern areas.

In discussing landscaping, Greg advised against a common practice of new collectors of wanting to buy and plant one of every type. Often ferns look very similar and this 'flat' approach can lead to a boring display. A way to avoid this flatness is to bulldoze an area to create a mound, resembling the side-elevation of a creek bed. This increases the variety of ferns which may be grown considerably as the top of the mound will have good drainage with wet, boggy areas at the bottom.

Watering systems for outside ferneries are very important. Greg recommends a system which produces a heavy droplet to avoid the problem of breezes blowing away fine mist-type sprays. He cautions, however, that plenty of air circulation is necessary to avoid ferns rotting, particularly maiden hair ferns.

Greg illustrated his talk with slides of the Otways and two outdoor domestic ferneries in Adelaide which showed how large outdoor areas may be landscaped effectively and economically.

\*\*\*\*\*

MORANS HIGHWAY NURSERY

FERN SPECIALISTS

Over 300 varieties of ferns including collectors' items. Nursery 102km north of Brisbane - 1km north of The Big Pineapple. Fern list available - phone day or night (071) 42 1613 - 41 3423. Closed Mondays except on Public Holidays or by prior appointment.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

FERN SOCIETY MEMBERS' FERNS AT ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

The Hills group of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria entered a display of plants at this year's Royal Melbourne Show. The theme was a woodland scene. Native plants and mosses were complemented by a large number of ferns lent by Fern Society members, Mrs. Betty Allgood and Ted Bolster. The various plants were attractively arranged by Mrs. Frances Emerson of Mt. Dandenong, and the entry was awarded 2nd prize in the Horticultural section of the Show.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING

Note: Our President, Doug Thomas, delivered this address to the Annual General Meeting of the Fern Society on Thursday 11th August, 1983. It covers activities of the Society for the year 1982/83.

In general the Fern Society has enjoyed another year of steady growth. Membership is the highest on record, the finances are sound, and country and interstate members are maintaining a highly valued interest in the Society's activities.

Management: The administration of the Society's business and finances has been very capably handled by the Members of the Executive Committee. Each Member of the Committee has been devoted to his or her task, with each contributing work of inestimable value. I am deeply appreciative of the support and co-operation given to me by those members.

Committee meetings were held on eleven occasions. Members' attendances follow:

Doug Thomas	11	Kath Brown	11
Chris Goudey	6	Bernard Coleman	8
Albert Jenkins	11	Mark Forster	2 (Resigned)
Bill Taylor	11	Berenice Hale	8
Jean Trudgeon	11	Bob Lee	2 (Approved May)
Keith Stubbs	9	Audrey O'Connell	8
		Margaret Radley	9
		Joan Taylor	9
		Albert Ward	9

Because of family commitments, Audrey O'Connell is not seeking re-election. Audrey's contribution to the work of the Committee is very much appreciated; she has been a dedicated worker and a clear thinker in Committee deliberations.

Society Highlights: (i) Annual Fern Show at the National Herbarium, March 26 & 27th when the public attendances and fern sales increased 100% and over one hundred new members joined the Society during and since the Show.

(ii) Honorary Life Membership was conferred on Immediate Past President, Chris Goudey.

(iii) Engagement of an Interstate Guest Speaker, Mr. Ray Best of Sydney for the April General Meeting.

Exhibitions: The Society contributed exhibitions of ferns at the following venues:

(i) S.G.A.P. Ringwood - August 14th & 15th, 1982.

(ii) The Melbourne Royal Show - September, 1982 where the Society won first award for its presentation.

(iii) The Herald Garden Week - Fitzroy Gardens, November, 1982.

Continued on next page

The Committee Implemented the following decisions:

- (i) Conducted a survey of lapsed members and a general survey of members who attend meetings.
- (ii) Made fern selling facilities available to members at General Meetings.
- (iii) Introduced an advisory service for members at General Meetings.
- (iv) Contributed a written article to the "Your Garden" magazine which produced enquiries for Membership.
- (v) Introduced a list of fern growers in the Society's Newsletter.
- (vi) Proceeded with the organization necessary for the production of the Society's first Journal. Publication of which is expected in Summer 1983/84.
- (vii) Included a Beginner's Page in the Monthly Newsletter.
- (viii) Launched a competition for a new cover design for the Newsletter.
- (ix) Endorsed a carefully balanced program of Speakers and Demonstrators for General Meetings.

General Meetings: Accommodation at the Burnley Horticultural College Hall has been taxed to the utmost on several occasions during the year. Attendances in excess of two hundred members have occurred. The program of Guest Speakers has been produced by Secretary, Keith Stubbs. This program has provided talks, demonstrations and discussions of excellent standard, maintaining the quality achieved in previous years. Total membership is at present a record 507.

Regular Features of General Meetings:

- (i) Fern Table - Fern identification - Fern Problems. Conducted by Chris Goudey.
- (ii) Special Effort - Kath Brown and Margaret Radley.
- (iii) Book Sales - Lorraine Goudey.
- (iv) Library - Bernadette Blackstock.
- (v) Fern Sales - various members assisted by members of the Executive Committee.
- (vi) Advisory Service - Dorothy Forte, Harold Olney, Keith Hutchinson and Chris Goudey.
- (vii) Spore Bank - Rod Hill
- (viii) Supper - Until June; Rita Olney and Lynne Hill. Since June, Beth Ward and Jan Seibel.

On behalf of the Society my sincere thanks are accorded to all of these valued workers.

The Offices

(i) Secretarial: The busiest office in the Society is undoubtedly that of Secretary. Despite the great volume of work entailed, Keith Stubbs continues to handle his task with great efficiency and professionalism. The Society is indeed fortunate to have Keith as its Secretary. We thank him most sincerely for his efforts.

Continued overleaf

(ii) Finances: The Society's revenue has been capably managed by Treasurer, Jean Trudgeon. Her financial statement typifies her thoroughness and discloses a "no worries" situation for the Society. Thank you Jean.

(iii) Monthly Newsletter: As editor, Keith Hutchinson continues to produce a very good quality monthly Newsletter for Society Members. Keith consistently manages to inform members -- Australia wide - on such items as meeting highlights, cultivation notes, habitat, nomenclature, fern genus and species etc. A survey of members recently conducted revealed that 33% of those who responded rated the Newsletter "Excellent" whilst 65% found it "Good". Thank you Keith.

(iv) Spore Bank: The Spore Bank has continued to function as a very valuable service to members everywhere. The efficiency and facility of the Spore Bank has been due to the dedication of its' Manager, Rod Hill.

However, Rod has now resigned from this task after four years of concentrated effort. The incoming Committee will immediately seek volunteers to fill this vacancy. Our thanks and appreciation are accorded to Rod.

(v) Show Sub-Committee: Led by Bill Taylor, the Show Sub-Committee was once again responsible for the staging of our highly successful "Fern Show" in the National Herbarium. The exhibition, organization and presentation resulted in drawing a fine public response and the establishment of a sound financial position for the Society. Show Sub-Committee Members worked very hard indeed for this annual highlight and each is worthy of our grateful thanks. In May this year Bill Taylor relinquished his task as leader and was replaced by Mr. Bob Lee. Miss Bernadette Blackstock is the Secretary to the Show Sub-Committee.

(vi) We have in our Immediate Past President, Chris Goudey and Vice Presidents Albert Jenkins and Bill Taylor three men who consistently provide practical leadership, dedication to the well being of the Society and much appreciated back up support to myself. Thanks to all three.

(vii) Members: Thank you for your interest and loyalty, for your attendance at meetins and functions and for your willingness to respond to the needs of the Society as they arise. Such enthusiasm must surely make the future of the Society pleasantly secure - Australia wide.

1982-83 has been good. The prospects for next year are also good. A continuance of an attitude of service coupled with steady management will ensure that it is so.

Doug Thomas  
(President)

\*\*\*\*\*



BEGINNERS' PAGE

A Greenhouse (often called a coldhouse because it has no artificial heating) is necessary to protect newly pricked off or repotted ferns, as being completely sealable it provides an environment free from dehydrating winds (hot or cold) heavy rain and excessive water. It will also protect many ferns from a light frost (air temperature zero<sup>o</sup> - 4<sup>o</sup>) but not a black frost (below zero<sup>o</sup>).

Materials suitable for building a greenhouse are treated pine, aluminium, and zinc or galv. plated metal, covered with glass, U.V. stabilised polythene, polyserim, or coreflute, etc. As heat loss through conventional glass is much greater than through polythene, many people feel that by using two layers of polythene with 1" battens between creating an airlock, they can keep their minimum temperature high enough for complete frost protection, and even grow some of the more tender ferns.

It is preferable to run the ridgeline north and south to gain full benefit of any winter sun. A ridge vent and louvres at the opposite end to the door are important for extremely hot weather. Glasshouse paint or 70% weathershade cloth is necessary for at least 7 months of the year in Melbourne, but would vary in other parts of Australia. This not only prevents burning of the new growth, but keeps the ferns a very lush green during periods of very harsh sunlight (hence the name "greenhouse").

The floor is usually concrete, with a .005 black polythene underlay to prevent cold from rising in winter.

Watering is necessary all year around from approximately twice a week in winter to at least once a day in summer. A mist or trickle system can be a great benefit, particularly if relying on neighbours during holidays.

One very important consideration when using polythene to cover your house is that it must be completely sealed and have a firmly fixed door during strong wind storms as, if a small opening develops, it quickly enlarges and can end in a blowout with devastating results to your ferns.

Glossary of Terminology (Continued)

Costate	ribbed
Crenate	with shallow rounded teeth, scalloped
Crisped	markedly wavy
Deflexed	bent sharply downwards
Deltoid	triangular shape
Dentate	with sharp indentations or teeth spreading at right angles to the margin
Digitate	spreading from centre like fingers on a hand
Dimorphic	occurring in two forms, e.g. the juvenile and adult fronds of <i>Blechnum Wattsii</i>

Continued on page 12.

**ASPLENIUM 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 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 glass-house conditions can be provided.

ADVERTISING RATES:

One-eighth of a page	: \$5.00 per issue
One-quarter of a page	: \$10.00 per issue
One-half of a page	: \$17.50 per issue
Full page advertisement	: \$30.00 per issue

**THE ROYAL SHOW 1983**

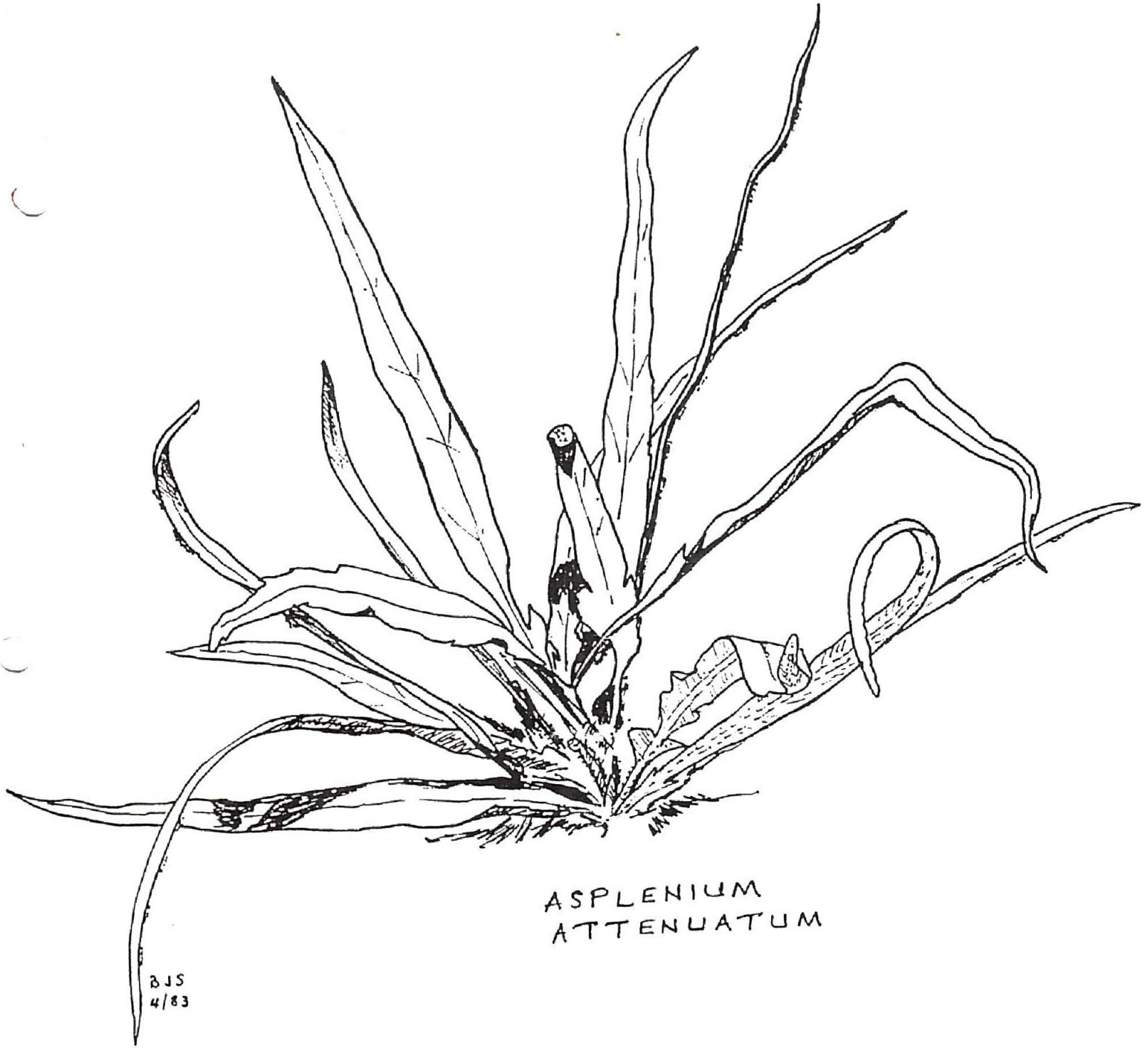
Once again the Fern Society of Victoria received the first prize in the Intersociety Display - a cheque for \$100.

The display was erected by our two Vice-Pesidents, Albert Jenkins and Bill Taylor, who were quite proud of the result, as it is difficult in a restricted area to do very much.

Thanks must go to all those members who went out to the show and acted as stewards and to look after the display - all told, some thirty members, even some of our country members, came down to help. This is very pleasing and proves the Society is coming of age.

Thanks must also go to those members who lent ferns to help make the display a success.

Bill Taylor  
Vice-Pesident



ASPLENIUM  
ATTENUATUM

BJS  
4/83

From page 9

I have been asked for assistance with pronunciations of several ferns, as many of the speakers have pronounced them differently.

From the Fern Dictionary ....

spelling:            Blechnum    fluviatile

pronunciation:    blek'num    fluv i ā ti le

Cheilanthes    tenuifolia

kī lan'thes    ten ū i fō'    li a

Polystichum    tsus-simense

po lis' ti kum    sūs-si men' se

KEY            ā    like   a   in   fate  
                   ī    like   i   in   bite  
                   ō    like   o   in   note  
                   ū    like   u   in   mute

If you have any other problem fern names, please write and let me know.

Keith Hutchinson

BUY	SELL	EXCHANGE	PLANT	MEMBER	PHONE
	✓ OR	✓	Drynaria sparsisora	Caryl Sims	075-353670
	✓ OR	✓	Scheliopsis Percussa	Caryl Sims	075 353670
✓			Leptopteris Superba	Mrs. B. Kelly	15 Winnigoopa Road, Blaxland NSW 2774
✓			Microlepa Strigosa Crested	"	"
✓			Pteris Cretica Childsii	Mr. R. J. Pattison	
✓			Blechnum Nudum Fimbratum	P.O. Box 59 Upper Mt. Gravatt, Qld. 4122	
✓			Osmunda Regalis		
✓			Microlepa Platyphilla		

FERN HUNTING IN EAST GIPPSLAND

by Chris Goudey

My family and I have just spent a most enjoyable week in the far east of our State. We set up our caravan at Mallacoota Inlet and made a number of day trips into some of the well-known fern areas, as well as some of the lesser known places. The fascinating thing about the rainforests of East Gippsland, is that they differ so much from the central and southern rainforests that we all know so well. It is possible to walk through areas where up to ten species of ferns grow in abundance, that do not occur in our cool temperate rainforests and yet, all of this is only six to eight hours drive from Melbourne.

At the suggestion of the National Parks Ranger at Mallacoota, we set off for an area in the Cape Howe Ranges, known as the Black Hole. To reach this pocket of rainforest, we had to cross over the border into New South Wales on the Princes Highway and turn south-east into the Nadgee State Forest and back over the State Line into Victoria. The area is well signposted and not too difficult to find. We were amazed at the abundance of ferns in these wet pockets of otherwise dry forest. Within fifty metres of where we left the car, we came across a clay bank with the Lacy Wedge Fern Lindsaea microphylla, growing alongside the Screw Fern L. linearis. Lindsaea microphylla was growing on a man-made excavation, which is quite typical with this fern. As we progressed further down the track, we saw an abundance of the Gristle Fern Blechnum cartilagineum, the Rainbow Fern Culcita dubia, the Scrambling Coral Fern Gleichenia microphylla and the Silky Fan Fern Sticherus tener. The Shiny Fan Fern Sticherus flabellatus, is reported to be common in the Cape Howe Ranges, but we saw none.

As we entered the rainforest pocket, we came upon a grove of tree-ferns, which consisted of the Soft Treefern Dicksonia antarctica and the Hard Treefern Cyathea australis, as well as the Prickly Treefern Cyathea leichhardtiana. The Fragrant Fern Microsorium scandens was a common epiphyte on the trees and logs and the Rock Felt Fern Pyrrosia rupestris could be seen on the more exposed limbs of the rainforest trees. Two species of filmy ferns occurred along the watercourse, these included the Veined Bristle Fern Polyphlebium venosum and the Jungle Bristle Fern Macroglena caudata. The ground ferns included the Shiny Shield Fern Lastreopsis acuminata and the Creeping Shield Fern Lastreopsis microsora, the Lady Fern Allantodea australe, the Strap Water Fern Blechnum patersonii. Less common was the Austral King Fern Todea barbara and the Mother Spleenwort Asplenium bulbiferum.

We were quite surprised to find the Japanese Lady Fern Lunathyrium japonicum in this area, as its only known occurrence in Victoria is along the upper Combiensbar River. Lindsaea microphylla was a new recording as well; it has been recorded from a number of localities in Victoria, but not from the Cape Howe Ranges. On leaving the area, we noticed the Prickly Rasp Fern Doodia aspera in the drier areas. Many of these ferns are restricted to the warm subtropical rainforests of eastern Victoria and were of particular interest to us.

Continued overleaf

After leaving the Black Hole, we crossed over the State Line, back into New South Wales, and lunched at a roadside picnic area near the Mallacoota Lookout (N.S.W.). A walking track led into the bush and we were most anxious to try it out. We came across the most beautiful fern gully I have seen in a long time. The walking track was good, except for a large log which had to be negotiated in the early stages. Most of the ferns which occurred at the Black Hole were there in abundance, including Prickly Treeferns by the thousands. We wandered through paradise for almost an hour and then I saw it! A Skirted Treefern Cyathea marcescens in New South Wales. Our only endemic fern, and I had just found one in New South Wales. To confuse things even further, this fern is reported as being a hybrid between C. australis and C. cunninghamii, as it only occurs where both these ferns grow. But, search as I did, I could find no C. cunninghamiis in the valley. We also noticed occasional plants of the Jungle Brake fern Pteris umbrosa in this rainforest pocket. We returned to our caravan at Mallacoota feeling quite pleased with ourselves.

The next day we visited Mount Drummer, an area well-known to the late Norm Wakefield. Readers of his book 'Ferns of Victoria and Tasmania' cannot but wonder, what this special place is like. The valleys were once thick with Lilly-Pilly, vines and subtropical rainforest. Mention is made of an area where one can stand and see all five species of Victorian treeferns growing together. The whole area is in ruin as it was burnt out by an uncontrolled wild fire, early this year. Unfortunately rainforests are not well-adapted to recovery after a fire. They depend on the moist conditions to prevent fire. Most eucalypts are well-adapted for survival and can regenerate in a short time, but not so with many of the smaller plants, particularly the epiphytes, such as the orchids and ferns.

I left the roadside and worked my way down the gully, in an effort to see just what did survive. The drier hillside species, such as Cyathea australia, C. leichhardtiana, Blechnum cartilagineum etc. were regenerating well and 70% to 80% of the treeferns in the gullies were also reshooting, but I fear for the Skirted treeferns. They were hardly recognisable, with no new growth at all. I fear that the heat generated, when their massive skirts ignited, could have been fatal for them. Of the small terrestrial ferns, 80% had not reshot and all the epiphytes had vanished, except for those in a small pocket which had escaped the fire. In this pocket, it is not difficult to imagine how the rest of the gully must have once looked. A dozen or so plants of Asplenium flaccidum the Weeping Spleenwort, survived on a rainforest tree. It will be many years, if ever, before the area returns to its former beauty.

After leaving Mt. Drummer, we drove through the peaceful Lind National Park along the Euchre Valley Nature Drive. The drive runs from the Princes Highway to Club Terrace, a six kilometre drive through a variety of vegetation, ranging from eucalypt forest to warm temperate

Continued on next page

rainforest, which were abundant with Lilly-Pilly and ferns. On the way back to Mallacoota, we made a detour up the Cann Highway to Noorinbee to a special place we know, where the Black Stem Maidenhair Fern Adiantum formosum grows in abundance in the rich jungle flats along the Cann River. The Lacy Ground Fern Dennstaedtia davallioides grows to perfection in the same area. Other ferns included the Necklace Fern Asplenium flabellifolium, Doodia aspera, the Sickle Fern Pellaea falcata, the Common Maidenhair Adiantum aethiopicum, Blechnum cartilagineum and many others. In the days that followed, we worked our way closer to home, taking in many of the well-known fern areas along the way. One place that is worthy of special mention is the Fairy Dell near Bruthen, which is the western limit of the Prickly Treefern Cyathea leichhardtiana. There is a well graded walking track which leads into a small rainforest pocket where many of the ferns, which occur further east, abound. Some of these include Microsorium scandens, Pteris umbrosa, Blechnum cartilagineum, B. patersonii, Allantodea australe, Cyathea australe, C.leichhardtiana and many more.

The Den of Nargun in the Glenaladale national Park near Bairnsdale, is a most enjoyable place to visit as well. It is located alongside the Mitchell River Gorge about thirty kilometres north of the Princes Highway. The walking tracks are good and lead to spectacular gorges and lookouts. The Den of Nargun Gorge is rich in ferns. The ferns in this area are mostly species that occur in central and southern Victoria such as the Sickle Fern Pellaea falcata, the Shiny Shield Fern Lastreopsis acuminata the Soft Treefern Dicksonia antarctica, Cheilanthes tenuifolia and C. sieberi, Doodia media, etc. but a few of the eastern species occur here. These include Pyrrosia rupestris, Microsorium scandens and Adiantum hispidulum, although we did not find this fern. Our last day was spent with Dorothy and Ian Forte at Garfield North, and I had the chance to explore with Dorothy, the rainforest gully on their property that I have heard so much about. It was magnificent. In one area the treeferns were giants and must have been at least ten metres tall with large buttresses that would be up to three metres in circumference. Filmy ferns and epiphytic orchids were abundant on the rainforest trees. Our visit to the Fortes brought to an end our week's holiday and it was back home and back to work.

---

#### Society Tour to East Gippsland

At our last committee meeting, I suggested that we investigate the possibility of a two day tour for Fern Society members to East Gippsland and the idea was accepted with much enthusiasm. I feel that the main points of interest could be easily seen in two days. It is anticipated at this stage that the tour be arranged for next Easter and we would like to hear from interested members and their friends as soon as possible, as the first night's accommodation at Lakes Entrance could be a problem, if we leave it too late. Details regarding the price and itinerary will be published in the next Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

BOOK SALES

Name of Book	Author	*Price	Postage & Packaging	Total
Australian Ferns & Fern Allies	D.L. Jones & S. Clemesha	\$15.40	\$2.55	\$17.95
Exotic Ferns In Australia	D.L. Jones & D.J. Goudey	\$11.50	\$2.55	\$14.05
Fern Growers Manual	B.J. Hoshizaki	\$9.00	\$2.55	\$11.55
Flora N.E. N.S.W.	Armadales	\$3.50	\$1.10	\$4.60
Growing Ferns	Ray Best	\$3.20	\$1.50	\$4.70
Ferns of Victoria & Tasmania	N.A. Wakefield	\$3.00	\$1.50	\$4.50
Ferns for Modern Living	E. Davenport	\$3.00	\$1.10	\$4.10
What Pest is That?	F. Hutchison	\$10.00	\$2.55	\$12.55
Ferns To Know & Grow	F. Gordon Foster	\$8.00	\$2.50	\$10.50
Ferns For The Home Garden	Gillelan Dunk	\$8.00	\$2.55	\$10.55

\* PLEASE NOTE - These prices apply for Victoria only, interstate orders are welcome. Please write to Lorraine Goudey, Lot 8, Cozens Road, LARA Victoria, 3212, for interstate prices.

\*\*\*\*\*



# 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.

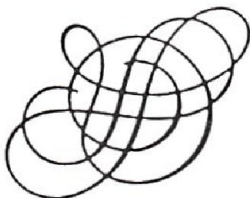
VICTORIA: 4/375 Bayswater Road, Bayswater  
Vic., 3153. Telephone: Melb. (03) 720 2200  
P.O. Box 302, Bayswater, Victoria, 3153



NEW MEMBERS:

Dr. Julien Basser, 397 New Street, Brighton, 3186  
 Ms. Roslyn Cohen, 56 Watts Street, Box Hill, 3129  
 D.W. & G.M. Gunn, 8 Hone Avenue, Blackburn South, 3130  
 Ms. Pauline A. Greene, 52 Bunnett Road, Knoxfield, 3180  
 Mr. Wayne Morris, 68 Hume Avenue, Melton South, 3338  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Martin, "Lara", Barham, N.S.W. 2739  
 Mrs. C. Murray, 38 Park Road, Surrey Hills, 3127  
 Mr. Miles Percival, 22 Lorraine Street, Capalaba, 4157  
 Ms. Shirley Sampson, 118 Richmond Road, Morningside, 4170  
 Mr. Ed. R. Schroeder, 9 Fourth Avenue, Klemzig, S.A. 5087  
 Mr. John Wallace, 31 Wyong Street, East Keilor, 3033  
 Mrs. H. Fisher, Comboyne, N.S.W. 2429  
 Mrs. E. L. Morgan, 53 Snowball Road, Kalamunda, W.A. 6076  
 Mrs. Christine Palubiski, 51 Vera Street, Corowa, N.S.W. 2646  
 Miss J. Buller, 299 Nicholson Street, Footscray, 3011  
 Mr. Andre Girjogg, 9/29 Park Street, South Yarra 3141  
 Mr. P. G. Flynn, Glenvue Caravan Park, Glenvue Road, Rye, 3941

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the above new members, who joined the ranks of the Fern Society of Victoria over the past two months.



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



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

\*\*\*\*\*



VALENTINES FERNERY

80 - 81 Wells Road, SEAFORD

WE SPECIALIZE IN QUALITY FERNS

Map Reference: Melway 99H1  
Please enter Wells Road through Patterson Lakes.

BUYERS' GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIES:VICTORIAALLGOOD PLANTS & FERNS

Main Road, Emerald, Victoria  
 Closed Mondays.  
 A.H. (059) 684858  
 Retail

FERN FROND 7

391-393 Maroondah Highway,  
 2 doors from Kentucky Chicken  
 Retail

"FERN GLEN"

Garfield North, Victoria  
 Ferns - Wholesale & 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.  
 Phone: (051) 49 2231

BEASLEY'S NURSERY

195 Warrandyte Road  
 Doncaster East.  
 Phone: 844 3335

WAYNE LONG FERN NURSERY

63 Athol Road, Noble Park  
 Phone: 546 5383

NORMA'S FERNERY

Carbour, via Milawa

QUEENSLANDMORANS HIGHWAY NURSERY

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

NEW SOUTH WALESFERN NURSERY

6 Nelson Street,  
 Thornleigh 2120  
 Wholesale & Retail  
 Phone: 84 2684

GREEN FROND NURSERY

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  
 Ferns and other indoor plants  
 with some Hawaiian hibiscus  
 Phone: (066) 47 6415

NORTH COAST FERN NURSERY

Evans Head Road  
 4 km from Woodburn on right  
 Caters for specialist fern  
 collectors.

TASMANIATASFERNS

3 Mimosa Court, Berriedale, 7011  
 Retail of outdoor ferns, special-  
 ising in spore-grown Tasmanian  
 native ferns, some mainland and  
 some exotic. Phone: (002) 493559

DEVIOT FERNERY

Deviot. Phone: (003) 947177  
 Retail Native & Exotic Ferns

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY,  
13TH OCTOBER: Mr. Phil Sheridan,  
proprietor of The  
Inn-Fernery, Monbulk

THURSDAY,  
10TH NOVEMBER: Mr. Richard Hartland  
'Ferns of Sabah'

THURSDAY,  
8TH DECEMBER: Fern Forum and  
Christmas Meeting

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:  
497 1913 49 2937

