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EDITOR: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084. Telephone 459 2997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member,

Christmas again! I wish you a very happy Christmas and hope that the New Year will be full of enjoyment and success, both in your involvement with ferns and in your personal prosperity.

<u>A Lesson</u>: The November meeting was very well attended and proved to be a most enjoyable and interesting function.

Guest Speaker, Richard Hartland, undertook his first public speaking engagement and in doing so showed, by example, how thorough preparation can overcome temporary inexperience. He took us into the mountainous regions of Borneo with slide photographs which described many species of ferns that were completely new to most of us. Richard explained that some specimens can be brought into Australia from Borneo on permit, but are subjected to a period of quarantine on arrival here. Richard had used his permit to good effect and had been successful in growing some of these species on. He shared the delight with us by bringing a magnificent collection to the meeting. He made it possible for all of us to see these ferns at first hand. In addition, Richard prepared a display board with snaps of the areas, tourist information and supplementary colour print photographs.

Next Month: December 8th, 1983 brings us to our traditional Christmas meeting and the last for 1983. The enjoyment packed program begins at 8 o'clock and will include our very efficient Fern Forum: Harold Olney, Chris Goudey, Keith Hutchinson, Rod Hill and Keith Stubbs (compere).

A feature such as this can only be successful when members are ready to contribute questions to the Panel. If you are diffident about speaking in public before two hundred people, then put your questions in writing and let Keith Stubbs have them before the meeting. If you are a country or interstate member please find some way to get your questions in and be a part of this great night. I should point out that questions must relate to ferns; the Panel Members have proved time and again that they are capable to advise on all aspects of the Fern Fancy. Identification, management, cultivation, failures, geography, insect pests are just a few of the topics in which they are extremely helpful.

Continued on next page

DECEMBER MEETING

The popular Fern Forum will again be presented at the Christmas Meeting on Thursday, December 8. Bring your questions - and a plate for supper. Also enter the raffle for the attractive fern propagating unit which will be the door prize.

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Next we have the traditional <u>Christmas Hamper</u> which I understand replaces the monthly "Special Effort". Tickets will be on sale at the door.

To make this a success, comparable to former Christmas meetings, your help is needed. A donation of goods suitable for such a hamper would be greatly appreciated.

Then we have a treat for some lucky member: The Committee is providing a fine propagation box as a prize in a "free" raffle. Make sure you get one ticket at the door as you enter the Hall. That is all you have to do.

<u>Needs</u>: Our organizers need lots of ferns in pots or baskets to enhance the formal decoration of the Hall and also a plate of sandwiches, cakes or savouries for our special supper. Would you help with either or both of these requests? The Committee will award a book voucher for the most decorative fern brought to the meeting. The voucher may be redeemed at our Society Book Stall.

Fern Society Recess: In January, there will not be a General Meeting nor will there be an issue of the Newsletter. The first meeting in 1984 will be held on Thursday, February 9th when I hope to be able to describe with colour slide photographs some of the beautiful rain forests and fern gullies of Victoria and N.S.W. Rain Forest and Fern Gullies: (Continued) Victoria: West of Melbourne: The Otway Ranges.

During the summer holiday period, a visit to the Otway Ranges can be very rewarding for fern enthusiasts, nature lovers, bush walkers and admirers of scenic beauty.

There are many outstanding rain forest fern gullies to be seen west of the township of Apollo Bay and several of these can be directly approached from the Great Ocean Road. One of these is Maits Rest, a wet rain forest area in which many species of ferns, creepers, beech trees, epiphytes and mosses are established. At the entrance to the Reserve there stands a massive blue gum tree whose base trunk, I estimate, to be 4m (12½ feet) in diameter and 13m (40 feet) in circumference. In observing this outstanding specimen the visitor can get some idea of the magnificent forests which flourished in the area before white man's intervention.

In the fern gully, the slender tree fern (Cyathea Cunninghamii) is prominent along with soft tree fern (Dicksonia Antarctica) and rough tree fern (Cyathea Australis).

Weeping Spleenwort (Asplenium Flaccidum) is plentiful and magnificent. Look carefully at these species and you will surely find hybrids; those which have hybridized with Aspelnium Bulbiferum.

Continued from previous page

Bristly shield fern (Lastriopsis Hispida) is a terrestrial fern which is plentiful, very beautiful and easy to find; however, the skirted tree fern (Cyathea Marcessans) is much more evasive. This magnificent tree fern grows in the Otways, at Tarra Vally and in isolated areas in the far east of Victoria. It grows nowhere else naturally in the world. In appearance it is similar to rough tree fern and has the habit of forming a "skirt" of old fronds which adhere to the trunk after they are spent. Unfortunately, not all specimens develop skirts which make identification difficult. The texture of the frondage is softer than C. Australis and the countenance more glossy. Botanists believe that Marcessans is a natural hybrid between the slender tree fern and rough tree fern. It develops spores but these seldom, if ever, reproduce. I have heard that the

most likely way to produce C. Marcessans from spores is to mix the spores of C. Australis and C. Cunninghamii and then just by patient.

A short distance further along the Great Ocean Road is a turn off to the Cape Otway Lighthouse. This lighthouse was built by convict labour in 1848 and to this day still assists with the navigation of passing ships. It is well worth a look and I believe that it is open to the public at certain times. The tourist centre at Apollo Bay would assist with the relevant information.

With kindest regards and every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Doug Thomas President

FROM THE EDITOR

As this is our final Newsletter for 1983, I must extend my sincere thanks to Chris Goudey, Rod Hill, Barry White, Richard Hartland and Albert Jenkins for their excellent contributions during the year. Also to our President, Doug Thomas, whose message and articles of great interest were always ready and waiting. Not forgetting the great artwork of Barry Stagoll which gave our Newsletter character. Rod Hill was very meticulous with his Spore Bank details and his day excursion notes were a highlight. Many thanks Rod.

Words cannot say how much the tireless efforts of Jean Trudgeon, Kath Brown and Shirley Radley mean to our society for without them our Newsletter would not even arrive at the post office. They are fantastic.

To all who have assisted in any way, I say thank you and wish each and every member a very happy Christmas, a safe return from holiday travel, and the best of health for the coming year.

> Your Editor, Keith Hutchinson

BEGINNER'S PAGE

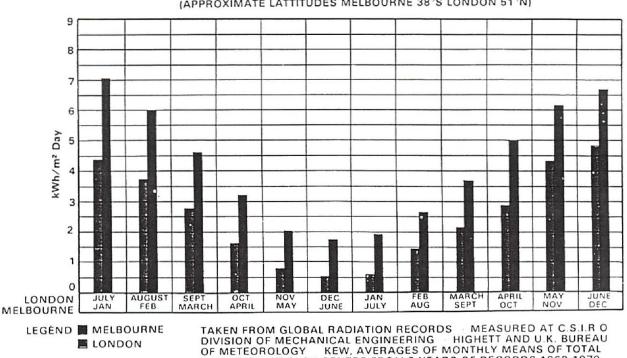
How often I hear people say: "Oh! Another dismal cloudy day!".

We all know the importance of sunshine but few of us consider the wonder of clouds. I'm sure ferns do, as most of the world's most beautiful ferns are found where clouds great in abundance. On the western slopes of the mountains on the south island and New Zealand, the plateau on Mount Gower, Lord Howe Island and in the Otway Ranges, clouds not only supply "liquid gold" but filter and mellow the harsh rays of summer sunshine.

With summer just around the corner it is extremely important to prepare a shade canopy during these next few weeks.

Researchers say, most ferns make maximum growth with an average, about 3 hours filtered sunlight per day. Of course, different species will tolerate different amounts of sunlight and only careful observation will determine their preferences. I have found Cyathea Australis and Todea Barbara thrive between 30% and 50% but Lastriopsis species, Hispidula and Shepperds need 70% to 80%.

As you will see in the Graph below, Melbourne received between 2.5 times in winter and 1.8 times in summer, the amount of sunlight that London receives even allowing for daylength variations. As a general rule, Victoria receives more than twice the amount of sunlight than is received in Northern Europe and similar areas in North America. By this we must realize just how harsh our summer is and try to minimise its damaging effect on our tender fern fronds.



RADIATION AT EACH CENTRE FROM 9 YEARS OF RECORDS 1962-1970

TOTAL GLOBAL RADIATION FOR MELBOURNE AND LONDON kWh/m² DAY (APPROXIMATE LATTITUDES MELBOURNE 38°S LONDON 51°N)

SABAH VISITED AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Richard Hartland was the Society's November Speaker.

Richard, well known member of the Society, who specialises in growing exotic ferns, gave a comprehensive slide presentation on ferns of the Sabah and Malay Peninsula region. He also took a lot of trouble in preparing one of the best static displays of ferns and other pictorial data presented by a speaker.

The rugged country, shown by Richard in his slides, surprised many members who had different ideas about what tropical country looked like. It also made difficult photographing the ferns on the floor of the forests due to very poor light values being available.

Richard knows the ferns of the area well -- he has identified about three hundred types and feels that this is about half of what is growing in the region. It is a very diverse place -- it has lowlands, intermediate highland forests and temperate forests at the top which has species which are found in Australia as well.

Richard's trip also took in the Cameron Highlands which has a different ecology with again different species. The Asian rain forests are most diverse, probably because when the ice ages came, they didn't go under the ice and the glaciers did not reach the areas which abound with ferns today. The forests remained and when the waters rose again, many species were created.

The lowlands do not contain many fern types. They commence in the highlands. However, the Mangrove swamps do contain many species but only for the intrepid collector to try to find!

Richard's slides showed a very interesting cross section of the rugged tropical scenery backed up by an interesting and often witty commentary. The audience was also very impressed with the fitness of Richard and his party to traverse the terrain.

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SLIDE BANK

The Committee is at present exploring the possibility of establishing a Bank of slide photographs relative to any aspect of fern culture. The idea has been put forward by Bernard Coleman who has undertaken the work of collecting, collating and duplicating slides.

Bernard is not seeking donations of slides but simply a loan for a short time so that slides can be duplicated. I understand that slides will be returned to lenders as soon as they are processed.

The Committee sees the establishment of a slide bank as being a means of producing a set of slides on any aspect of fern culture at very short notice. These "sets" of slides could be used as a short regular feature at monthly meetings and could also be made available to kindred societies and clubs who may from time to time be in need of fern information.

1984 ANNUAL FERN SHOW

The fourth Annual Fern Show of the Society will be held at the National Herbarium on Saturday and Sunday, March 24th and 25th, 1984, assuming approval of our application for use of the hall on these dates. Setting up will be done on Friday, March 23rd.

Planning for the Show is proceeding well and it has been decided that the layout will be arranged to highlight Tree Fern varieties as a central theme.

While most of the organisation for the Show will be carried out by the Show Sub-Committee, the real success of the weekend will depend as always on the involvement of as many Society members as possible. Your assistance is needed in:

- providing ferns for exhibition and for sale (your ferns in your show!)
- setting up the displays on Friday, the general running of the Show during the end and then dismantling and cleaning up on Sunday afternoon.

Please let a member of the Sub-Committee know as soon as possible whether you will be able to assist in these areas.

As the central theme of the Show will be Tree Ferns, well-grown specimens of as many varieties of these as possible will obviously be a prime need. However, a good general display of a wide range of ferns will still be the backbone of the Show. For the layout planned we will need more ferns in pots and fewer hanging baskets than we had last year (when the pergola with hanging baskets was a central feature of the Show).

It will be a great help in planning the display if we can have some advance information on what ferns members will be able to provide. Please sort through your ferns soon, perhaps over the holiday period, and let us know on the form included as an insert with this Newsletter what you would like to offer for exhibition. A form is also provided on the insert for listing your sale ferns when booking them in at the time of the Show.

Membership of the Show Sub-Committee remains the same as last year: viz;

Bob Lee (Chairman) Bernadette Blackstock (Secretary) Bill & Joan Taylor Bernard & Bernadette Coleman Barry & Gay Stagoll Greg Bunting Peter Duall

Two more members volunteered to join the Sub-Committee but one had to resign through ill-health and the other was Bill Bright who has since taken over the demanding role of Spore Bank Manager. As this is the first time I've written for the Newsletter, I'd like to cover several items.

- First, thank you to all those members who have freely donated and promised spore. You've certainly made me believe that we can continue to make the Bank a success. Thank you again for your valuable support.
- 2. The Bank requires constant supplies of new and interesting spore to remain healthy. I'm sure every reader of this newsletter has at least one fern in their collection, that produces spore in excess to their requirements and importantly, is not in stock in our Bank. I would be most grateful if you would examine the following spore list and collect any spore that is not included, or is prefixed with the letter "L", which indicates "limited supply". You can post, or give it to me at our monthly meeting.

If you are unsure of collecting spore, the following is a reprint of an article by Rod Hill on "Collecting Fern Spore".

COLLECTING FERN SPORE

by Rod Hill

The most important aspect of gathering fern spore is to decide just when the spore is ripe. The spore develop inside roughly spherical sporangia, clusters of which form the familiar sori on the backs of fern fronds. The spore is initially light green and generally slowly ripens to dark brown or black, at which time the sporangia appear swollen and shiny. As the sporangia then burst and release the ripe spore, the sorus takes on a tatty, or furry, appearance. Often you will be able to find all stages on a single plant, if not on a single frond, and you should collect portions of fronds in region where the spore is ripest, just <u>before</u> and <u>including</u> the tatty region where the spore is being released.

N.B. If the sorus is covered by a protective indusium, this may lift (or) open) as the spore ripens (e.g. Polystichum, Lastreopsis, Rumohra, Dicksonia), but if not (e.g. Adiantum, Asplenium) you may need to examine beneath it - a hand lens, x 10 magnification, is most useful.

Some spore (e.g. Sticheris, Gleichenia, Polypodium, Microsorium, Dicksonia) ripen to yellow. Todea and Leptopteris (and some others of the Osmunda family) ripen to dark green, the empty sporangia being yellowish.

The sections of fronds collected should be allowed to dry, face-up, on (or between) sheets of paper (blotting paper is good) in a warm, dry spot (not direct sun or breezy). If the spore is ripe, some should collect on the paper within a couple of hours. (If unsure whether portion of a frond is ready for gathering spore, test a very small section as above.

After about 24 hours, tap the fronds gently to dislodge any trapped spore and sweep the spore with a fine brush (or tap it into and down a fold in the paper) into an envelope or small paper bag, ensuring corners are sealed with tape, or fold the spore into a sheet of paper and seal with tape.

<u>Label</u> spore with species, data and name of collector if unsure of species enclose frond if possible.

3. The 1984 Fern Show is creeping up. To ensure the Bank can satisfy the expected demand, I need to build up spore stocks as soon as possible in the new year. This is therefore an additional request, asking members to collect and forward spore from the following species.

Hardy Victorian Natives

Adiantum hispidulum Asplenium bulbiferum Blechnum nudum Cyathea australis Davallia pyxidata Dicksonia antarctica Doodia aspera Hypolepis punctata Microsorium diversifolium Lastreopsis microsora Polystichum proliferum Pteris tremula

Hardy Exotic Ferns

Adiantum cv banksiana Asplenium oblonifolium Cyrtomium falcatum Davallia trichomanoides Dryopteris erythrosora Phlebodium aureum Phyllitis scolopendrium Polypodium vulgare Polystichum setiferum Pteris cretica (and cultivars) Tectaria macrodonta Woodwardia radicans

 The following is a list of the Bank's spore stock, less than two years old.

REGULAR SPORE LIST - DECEMBER 1983

Adiantum formosum, (2-83) A.patens, (10-83) A.raddianum, (3-83) A.silvaticum, (L) (10-83) Anemia mexicana, (3-83) Arachniodes aristata, (3-83) Asplenium dimorphum, (10-83) A.trichomanes, (L) (3-83) Blechnum ambiguum, (L) (1-83) B.cartilagineum, (2-83) B.fluviatile, (2-83) B.gregsonii, (1-83) B.nudum 'furcans', (6-83) B.penna-marina, (L) (3-83) B.wattsii, (5-82) Cheilanthes tenuifolia, (3-83) Christella dentata, (3-83) Culcita dubia, (3-83) Cyathea australis, (3-83) C.brownii, (3-83) C.cooperi, (2-83) C.dealbata, (3-83) C.leichhardtiana, (9-82) C.species (Cameron Highlands) (7-83) C.species (Large/Malaysia) (10-82) Cystopteris filix-fragilis, (L) (2-83) Dicksonia antartica, (2-83) D.fibrosa, (5-82) D.lanata, (10-83) Diplazium australe, (2-83) Doodia aspera, (L) (5-83) D.caudata, (L) (2-83)

D.media, (2-83) Dryopteris carthusiana, (7-82) D.erythrosora, (2-83) D.gymnosorus, (3-83) D.sp. (filix-mas?) (8-82) D.sp. (mixed) (3-83) Lastreopsis microsora, (8-83) L.munita, (8-83) L.smithiana, (L) (2-83) L.sp. (3 different species) (8-83) L. (6) unknown species, (8-83) Lygodium sp. (Malaysia), (10-82) L.sp. (circinnatum?/Malaysia), (10-82) Marattia sp. (6-83) Pellaea falcata, (L) (3-83) P.rotundifolia, (3-83) P.viridis, (8-82) Pleurosorus rutifolius, (8-83) Polypodium grassifolium, (L) (9-83) Polystichum formosum, (5-82) Psilotum nudum, (7-82) Pteris comans, (2-83) P.tremula, (2-83) P.umbrosa, (9-83) Rumohra adiantiformis, (3-83) Stenochlaena palustris, (10-82) Taenitis blechnoides, (10-82)

Ground-fern (lge./bipinnatifid/Malaysia (10-82)

SPORE LIST:

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. W. Bright, 520 Bourke Road, Camberwell 3126.

Payment for orders may be made by postage stamp (30 cent stamps preferred where possible) \underline{or} by cheque (payable to "Fern Society of Victoria").

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

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

Doodia aspera and its cultivars

by Chris Goudey

Last month I submitted an article on Blechnum nudum cultivars. The article was taken from "Choice Ferns for Amateurs" by George Schneider 1905. A large number of Australian and New Zealand ferns were cultivated in Britain at the turn of the century and as a result of extensive cultivation in Britain at the turn of the century quite a number of interesting cultivars and forms were introduced to the home gardener. Unfortunately many of these ferns have been lost to horticulture, ferns such as <u>Pteris tremula</u> cv. Grandiceps and <u>Doodia aspera</u> cv. Multifida.

The following description of <u>Doodia aspera</u> and its cultivars appeared also in the above mentioned book.

DOODIA ASPERA

This pretty, evergreen, greenhouse species of erect habit, is a native of Temperate Australia. It is easily distinguished from all other known species by the harsh and rigid nature of the dark-coloured stalks of its fronds. The fronds, which are abundantly produced from a short-creeping rhizome, are oblong-spear-shaped, 6in. to 18in. long, 2in. to 4in. broad, and pinnatifid; the numerous long and narrow leaflets have their margins strongly toothed and their base dilated, the lower ones dwindling to mere auricles. They are of a particularly tough texture, and while in a young state, and until quite developed, are of a very beautiful purplish-metalic hue, which gradually turns to the darkest green. The oblong sori are disposed in one or two rows, the inner situated at a short distance from the midrib. Two remarkably pretty and distinct varieties have been produced in D. a. corymbifera, a plant of stiff, erect habit, with fronds seldom attaining more than half the dimensions of those of the type, and densely crested at their extremity; and D. a. multifida, in which the fronds, instead of being erect, like those of type, are elegantly drooping, and instead of being densely crested, like those of the foregoing variety, are several times forked at their extremity (Fig. 90; their leaflets show the same character. Both these varieties, the latter of which reproduces itself freely and true from spores, the foliage, of a beautiful claret colour when young, gradually assumes a copper tint and changes to a dark green with age.



Doodia aspera multifida, a variety with gracefully drooping fronds, several times forked at their extremity.



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Cyathea medullaris (New Zealand Black Treefern, quick-growing).\$5.00					
Cyathea robusta (Lord Howe Island Treefern, one of Australia's					
most beautiful treeferns, very rare)\$8.00					
Cyathea australis ssp. norfolkiensis (Norfolk Island Treefern,					
quick-growing, majestic and very rare in cultivation)\$8.00					
Cyathea rebeccae (N.E. Queensland Treefern)\$5.00					
Cyathea leichhardtiana (Prickly Treefern)\$5.00					
Cyathea brownii (Norfolk Island Treefern, quick-growing,					
majestic)\$5.00					
Cyathea macarthurii (Lord Howe Island Treefern, rare in					
cultivation)\$8.00					
Cyathea manniana (South Africa, rare in cultivation)\$8.00					
Dicksonia lanata (New Zealand Treefern, prostate treefern,					
very rare in cultivation)\$8.00					
Dicksonia squarrosa (New Zealand Treefern, very hardy,					
quick-growing)\$5.00					
Dicksonia fibrosa (New Zealand Treefern, very hardy, rare in					
cultivation)\$5.00 Cibotium regale (Mexican Treefern, graceful weeping, rare in					
cultivation)\$8.00					
Curtivation/					

<u>TERMS OF SALE</u> - Money Order or Cheque with order Prices include postage and handling Packages contain enough pure spore for a commercial planting of approximately 200 ferns.

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NEW MEMBERS

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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

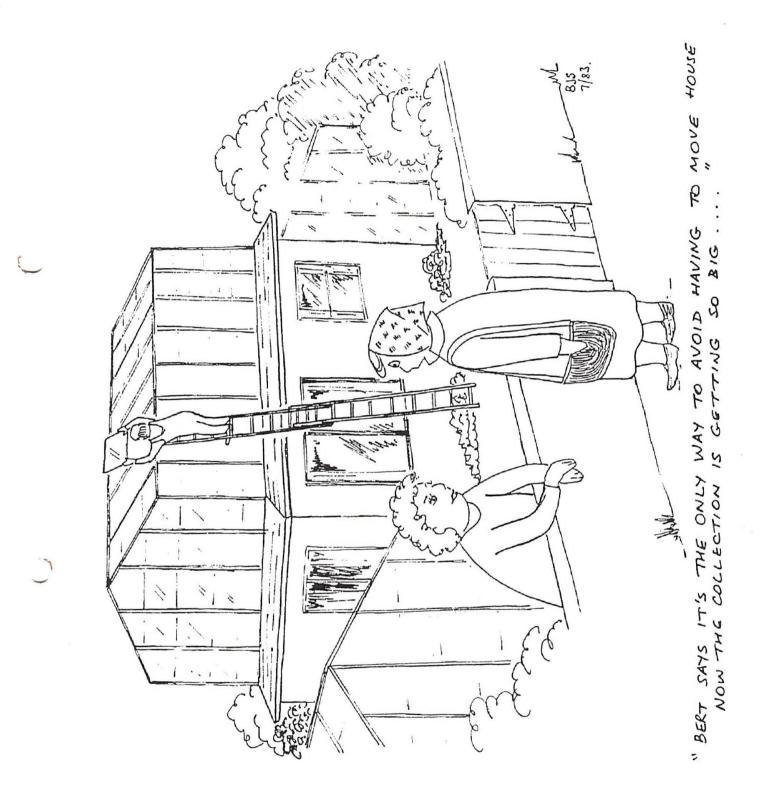


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BUY	SELL	EXCHANGE FOR	PLANT	MEMBER & ADDRESS
	-	Piece of Dryanaria ridigula "cristata" (established, potted)	Camptosorus rhizophyllus	D.K. Stapp 1 Clifford Street SOUTH BRIGHTON 5048

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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.

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

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BEASLEY'S NURSERY 195 Warrandyte Road Doncaster East. Phone: 844 3335

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

VALENTINES FERNERY 80 - 81 Wells Road, Seaford. Map Reference: Melway 99H1 Please enter Wells Road through Patterson Lakes

NORMA'S FERNERY Carbour, via Milawa

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NEW SOUTH WALES

FERN 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.

TASMANIA

TASFERNS 3 Mimosa Court, Berriedale, 7011 Retail of outdoor ferns, specialising 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, 8TH DECEMBER

Fern Forum and Christmas Breakup

JANUARY

No Meeting

THURSDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY Mr. Doug Thomas "Fern Gullies & Rain Forests"

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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