CHE FERN SOCIETY OF UICCORIA

NEWSLECTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Member,

The March General Meeting, marking the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Society, proved to be an enjoyable and very interesting function.

Guest Speaker, Professor Chambers, who is a world authority on the Genus Blechnum and Chief Botanist at the Melbourne University, enthralled the large audience as he explained world land masses and the occurrences of specific species of the Blechnum fern in these continents. His explanation of the methods used in naming plants so that the same scientific name is applicable in every country in the world, was also very interesting and informative.

We were privileged to see a copy of an exceptional fern book which Professor Chambers brought with him from the University Library. The book, which is devoted to Ferns of England, is one of only five hundred printed 130 years ago. It was printed by a method known as nature printing which had been perfected in Germany at that time. The technique was taught to an Englishman who later produced the books. The presentation is so spectacular that the ferns and fern fronds illustrated appear as if they had just been freshly picked.

Professor Chambers had planned to present an exhibition of colour slides describing Blechnums from other continents, but was thwarted in this by a malfunction in the Hall projector.

Thank you Bill Taylor and Keith Hutchinson for trying so hard to make a screening.

The response by Members to the appeal for a display of Blechnums was excellent. The ferns were all in first class condition and provided a wide variety of species. Professor Chambers took a close interest in these plants and made helpful comments about each one. Thank you very much Members for helping in this beautiful and practical way.

Later, Keith Hutchinson undertook a Blechnum show judging exercise and found that four specimens were of equal and outstanding merit. Thank you Keith, I feel sure that Members appreciated your comments.

Honorary Life Membership: second award of Life Membership for this Society was bestowed upon Vice-President Bill Taylor.



APRIL MEETING

New Members and Gadgets Night

This has become an annual event. Bring along your queries and see some of the more experienced members in action!

Continued from previous page

Bill has proved by his devotion to the needs of the Society over several years that he is abundantly worthy of the honour. Congratulations Bill.

The next General Meeting of this Society will be held on Thursday, April 12, 1984 commencing at 8.00 p.m. The venue is the Horticultural College Hall, Swan Street, Burnley. The activity is to take the form of a "Beginners and Gadget Night".

The Committee has planned a similar format to that which proved so

popular last year. We are to have three mini-talks by experienced members: Betty Allgood - "Basics" Rod Hill - "Raising Sporelings" and from Keith Hutchinson a demonstration of soil testing for pH.

For the gadget section we shall depend heavily on our rank and file Members. Please bear in mind that we can all learn from one another and that there is no end to learning. The demonstration of the simplest gadget could be extremely helpful to other members who would "never ever have thought of it".

With kindest regards,

DOUG THOMAS President

GRATITUDE:

I would like to offer my appreciation to the Fern Society of Victoria for the bestowing of the Life Membership on me at the March meeting.

It was the greatest honour and surprise of my life.

I would also like to thank our President, Doug Thomas, for his kind words.

I must say that what I have done for the Fern Society has always been a pleasure, because I believe this is a great organisation of tremendous potential with such a strong and active number of friendly members and I am proud to be one of them.

Thank, you once again.

4500

Even my wife, Joan, kept the secret.

PROFESSOR CHAMBERS LECTURE

Due to an unexpected short trip to the U.S.A. by our Secretary, Keith Stubbs, who transcribes and edits the monthly lecture tape, there is no report this month.

Keith arrived back in Melbourne after the magazine deadline. He has listened briefly to the tape and feels that there is so much good and interesting information available from Professor Chambers' talk, that this will be covered in more depth than usual and serialised over the next couple of issues rather than rush through the report.

EAST GIPPSLAND TOUR

There are only six vacant seats left for Fern Society tour to East Gippsland.

The tour has been booked for the weekend of the 19th and 20th May, and the details are in the March Newsletter on page 4.

The cost of the tour will be approximately \$40.00 to \$45.00 per person, and this includes: the coach tour, accommodation at the Lake Tyers Uniting Church Cabins and all meals.

There will be a barbecue lunch provided on the Saturday and the Sunday, and a hot evening meal on the Saturday night at Lake Tyers. Breakfast on the Sunday morning will be bacon and eggs, toast, tea and coffee. (Bring your own favourite cereal.)

Pack your own sleeping bag and pillow and comfortable walking shoes.

Further details will be provided in next Newsletter.

CHRIS GOUDEY

FIDDLE HEADS!

We've heard of fiddlesticks - but how many of you have heard of fiddleheads? No, not the ones you play, the ones you eat?

Keith Stubbs reported back to the editor on his return from the U.S.A. that people actually farm and can the croziers which, as you will recognize, resemble the cleft on a double bass.

Keith will have the can with him at the April meeting. Apparently they are regarded as a delicacy in Canada. The product which Keith has was canned in Vermont.

Is nothing sacred?!

RAIN FORESTS AND FERN GULLIES: (Continued from March Newsletter)

The Badger Weir - South Healesville, Victoria.

Located in the Great Dividing Range, Badger Weir is approximately sixty either kilometres east from the Melbourne G.P.O. It is approached by passing through the attractive little town of Healesville. On the eastern outskirts of the town turn right into the Mount Donna Buang snow resort road. A short distance along this road the well sign posted entrance to the picnic area will be seen.

Badger Weir has been developed by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and is designed as a family relaxation and information centre. The appointment of facilities is excellent and include well maintained barbeques, picnic tables, shelters, clean and well maintained toilets and ample car parking space.

For fern lovers the walks are an absolute delight. The walk ways are well graded and designed so that they follow the course of the Badger Creek.

Walk slowly, be observant and you will be surprised at the number of fern species which abound here: You should find two species of tree ferns; Dicksonia Antarctica (Soft Tree Fern) and Cyathea Australis (Rough Tree Fern). Dicksonia close to the water and Cyathea on higher and drier ground. Take a note pad with you and mark down the Blechnum species as you find them; a total of seven should be your goal.

Search for five species of the tiny and delicately beautiful filmy ferns composed of three Hymenophyllums (Common, Austral and Shiny), one Polyphlebium (Veined Bristle Fern) and one Macroglena (Jungle Bristle Fern). The first four will be found growing on soft tree fern trunks with Macroglena on the drier trunks of rough tree fern.

A real test of your powers of observation will come if you seek out the Fork ferns, Tmesipteris. Victoria has four species, three of which grow at Badger Weir. All three species grow as epiphytes on the trunks of both soft and rough tree ferns. Tmesipteris Billardieri (Long Fork Fern) T. Parva (Small Fork Fern) and the rare T. Ovata (Oval Fork Fern).

In total you should finish the walk with a list of thirty six species. Probably your best chance of seeing all of these would be to begin your walk as a gentle climb up the south side of the creek; walk as far as the weir then cross the stream. Return to the picnic area by walking down the north side of the creek but on the way divert now and again to high ground north of the track. In some places there are areas of very wet soaks and in these ferns abound with lush and rare beauty.

DOUG THOMAS

(To be continued.)

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FOURTH ANNUAL FERN SHOW

As this month's Newsletter has to go to press before the start of the Fern Show, a report of the event will be in next month's issue.

AUSTRALIAN FERN JOURNAL

Our Fern Journal was well received at the March meeting, it contains 32 pages which are entirely devoted to ferns with no less than 27 colour photographs as well as black and white photos and line drawings.

The Journal contains interesting articles on Propagation and Potting together with articles on the ferns of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands as well as Coffs Harbour (N.S.W.), Anglesea (Vic.) and Mt. Kinabalu (Malaysia).

The Journal is available to members of the Fern Society at a cost of \$1.80 per copy, at the meetings. Country members please add 60 cents postage and all interstate members please add 65 cents postage.

Send orders to Lorraine Goudey, Lot 8 Cozens Road, LARA 3212.

CHRIS GOUDEY

MARCH SPECIAL EFFORT WINNERS:

Sue Gardner-Berry Bill Bright Alan Robb Robert Lee

BEGINNER'S PAGE

Coping with the pests which are to be found amongst our ferns need not be the most trying job we all seem to think. Pests can be divided into two main categories:

- 1. Chewing insects
- 2. Sucking insects

and the respective methods of control are:

- 1. Stomach poisons
- 2. Contact sprays

Chewing insects include such pests as grubs, caterpillars, snails, etc. all of which have strong biting mouth parts to enable them to chew tender fronds and young croziers. The method of control is to lay a coating of poison on their food, so that when this type of pest eats a fern frond it also consumes a fatal dose of poison. In the case of slugs and snails the easiest method of control is to lay a bait.

The sucking insects which include aphids, scale, mites, bugs, red spider, etc. are equipped with a long hollow, piercing mouth part (similar to a mosquito) which is plunged through the outer surface of the frond into the sapstream. Through this hollow tube this type of pest is able to suck the sap and thus rob the fern of nourishment. It will be readily seen, therefore, that stomach poisons have no effect on sucking insects as their food is obtained from within the plant cells and not contaminated by an outside layer of poison. The method of control is to apply a contact spray which penetrates the body of the pest either by actual contact or by means of vapour or fumes causing paralysis of the whole of their nervous system.

So the important thing is to quickly discover the nature of the pest (a jeweller's eyeglass or a strong magnifying glass are very helpful in this task) and apply the appropriate control. Be sure to read the recommendations on the container and follow them carefully.



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PLATYCERIUM SUPERBUM in the Wild and in Cultivation

by Ralph H. Hughes

Although Platycerium superbum was introduced into cultivation more than a century ago, this majestic epiphyte is a common centerpiece of the home garden only in its native Australia. Many of its characteristics are better suited to a drier, cooler external condition than is the rule in warm, humid regions or in greenhouse culture.

This paper provides solutions to cultural problems in southern Florida, based on a tour of Platycerium habitats in Australia (Hughes & Lomax 1981a) and a case history of plants growing in the author's garden. Observations include self-grown sporelings, 2X (twice transplanted) importations, stock of the trade, and importation of harvested plants from Australia. A greenhouse with climate controls is available, but all larger plants are grown outside year-long, with hand watering and without supplemental heat. Hence, recommendations exclude greenhouse culture per se. Light varies from full midday sun to 50 percent shade fabric or to overhead canopy of tall live-oak trees. Climatological records were supplied by the Bureau of Meteorology, Australia.

Description

Rhizome short, covered by shield fronds except at the tip. Fronds of two kinds, basal or shield fronds and fertile or spore-bearing. Shield fronds nest-like with the lower part kidney-shaped and appressed to the substratum; the upper part fan-shaped with prominent main veins and extending forward, with lobes divided into two parts, the top edge being lobed with tips rounded to sharp-pointed. Foliage evergreen, densely covered with white stellate hairs when young, later becoming nearly glabrous. Fertile fronds reclining, thin, narrow, usually in pairs, each divided about five times; light green in color. Spore patch broad, semi-circular, at the base of the first fork, one patch per frond.

Platycerium superbum differs from P. grande by its larger size and by the single spore patch at the first fork of the fertile frond. The fertile frond of P. grande, the Philippine counterpart to P. superbum, has two approximately equal primary lobes, each with a well-developed spore patch. Both species feature evergreen shield fronds and the absence of offshoots (pups). Until 1970 P. superbum was referred to as P. grande and is sometimes erroneously offered under that name.

Although characteristics are distinct for most mature plants growing side by side, young plants of the two species with juvenile fronds are difficult for the non-specialist to identify because plants in this stage of growth vary only in microscopic details. Juvenile stages persist five to ten years. Even with mature plants the distinguishing characteristics are not always consistent. According to Hoshizaki (1972), P. superbum in nature probably descended directly from P. grande through loss of a spore patch. Intergradation—the condition of merging gradually one with another through a continuous series of intermediate forms—persists in cultivation. As an example, in two of five years, a P. grande imported from the Philippines produced fronds with one spore patch as well as normal spore patch fronds.

Several nondescripts are offered in the trade, such as "Grande Wietz," "Tamburiense," and "White Grande." The plant in cultivation is P. superbum. Form of the leaves is quite plastic, and all degrees of variation appear in spore culture and in plants harvested from the wild.

The hybrid Platycerium X mentelosii (Hoshizaki 1975) is confirmed in that its progeny, a sporeling, mounted in 1974 by Robert Oman of Miami, in 1982 produced a first generation hybrid with two fertile fronds. Its overall appearance is intermediate between the original parents, P. superbum and P. stemaria.

Giant staghorn is the common name for P. superbum selected by the author following a recent review of the literature (Hughes 1981b). In Australia, however, the common name is simply 'staghorn.' The other indigenous species are called elkhorn (P. bifurcatum), northern elkhorn (P. hillii), and silver elkhorn (P. veitchii) (Jones and Clemesha 1978). Scientific names of the species are favoured by other English-speaking peoples.

The following delightful piece is taken from "The Universal Self Instructor - 1883"

A FEW WORDS ABOUT GATHERING FERNS

Many a happy hour is passed by the dear folks at home in gathering and pressing ferns and autumn leaves, with which to brighten the house when winter winds are wild.

Never have too many of these in one apartment, for ornament should always be subordinate, and never ought to appear overloaded or too profuse. A parlor ought not to be smothered with either growing vines or plants, nor should ferns and branches be so multiplied as to give a spotty effect to walls.

All the young people may help in decorating the home with leaves, the girls pressing and preparing them, dipping the brilliant maple and the somber oak foliage into thinnest wax, or varnishing it, or perhaps merely pressing it with a half-warm flat-iron, and the boys climbing the step-ladder, and placing the bright bunches and vivid festoons where their sisters direct.

The fern-gatherer should go (sic) the woods with a long basket, the sides and bottom of which are lined with fresh leaves. Lay the ferns in this, and as they wilt very quickly, cover them with leaves.

Press them immediately on arriving at home, between old newspapers, or, if you have it handy, large sheets of blotting-paper. Large old books will answer if you have such. Place a layer of ferns, face down; cover with several thicknesses of paper, on which lay a thin, smooth piece of board. Cover this with a weight evenly. Three or four weeks will press them perfectly.

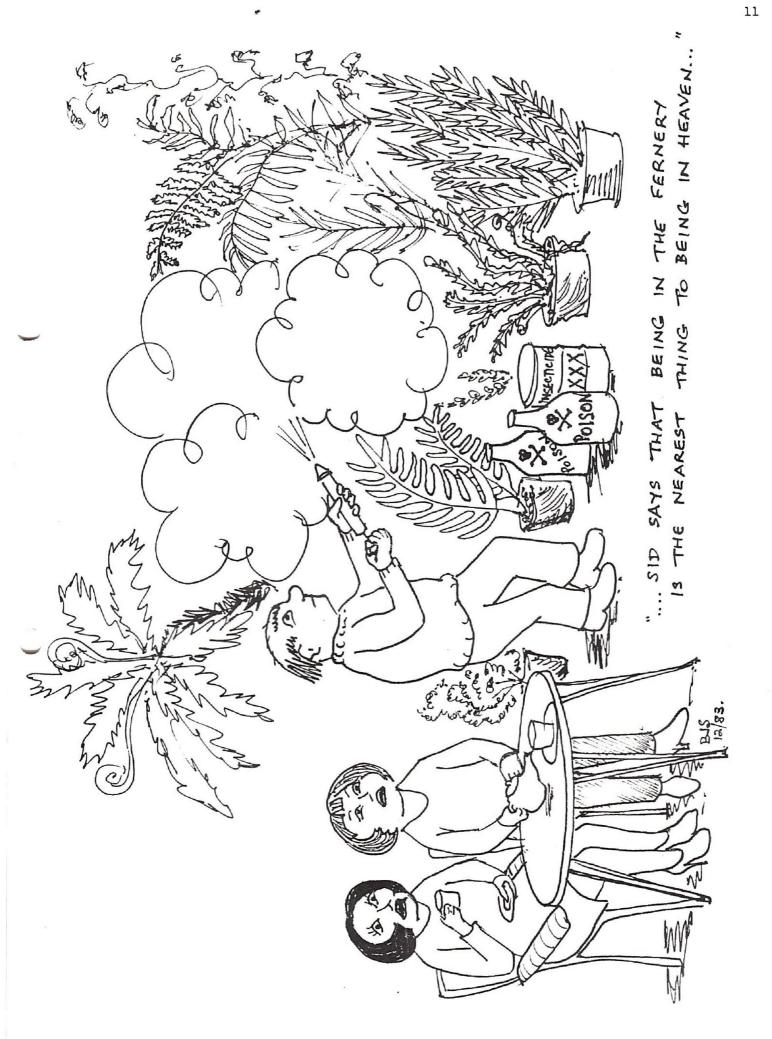
Ferns and autumn leaves make a pretty picture framed against a black ground. They are a substitute for a bouquet in winter, when no plants are in bloom.

The Fern Society of Victoria wishes to extend a warm welcome to the following members who have joined the ranks over the past two months.

H.A. Lapthorne, 16 Bungay Street, Fawkner Ian Perryman, 254 Nell Street, Watsonia 3087 Damien Mark Casey, 288 Union Road, Balwyn 3103 Mrs. P.S. Coupar, 9 Derwent Street, Ringwood North L.D. Brown, 27 Alwyn Street, Croydon 3136 Ian Broughton, 472 Scoresby Road, Knoxfield Ron Appleton, 43 Edro Avenue, East Brighton Mrs. Paula O'Neill, 56 Third Avenue, Campsie Mrs. Margaret MacDonald, 335 Davey Street, Tasmania Neville John Grove, 14 Kinross Street, Pascoe Vale Ian R. Stone, 8 Fenton Street, Ascot Vale 3032 John B. Wilson, 1 Dronley Cottages, Dronley Farm, Dronley Dundee Scotland U.K. DD3 OQJ Fay M. Dunstan, 33 Rose Street, Manjimup 6258 Mrs. Valerie Monkivitch, 49 Milne Street, Templestowe 3106 Stephen John Tilley, 10 Allnutt Court, Cheltenham 3192 Diane Simpson, Oaklands Road, Oaklands Junction Oliver & Meg Larkin, "Patch Valley" Kallista/Emerald Road, The Patch 3792 Mrs. Dot Miniken, 8 Bank Street, Avenel 3664. Desmond Burch, 156 Ballarat Road, North Geelong Dr. Leon Loftus, Lot 71 Ure Road, Gembrook 3783 Mr. & Mrs. K.W. Jones, 55 Sevenoaks Road, East Burwood Alan & Tania Clayton, Johnston Parade, Ferny Creek 3786 Robert & Edna Thomas, 2 Ryrie Street, Healesville 3777 Fred & Isabel Berrigan, 44 Plymouth Road, Croydon 3136 Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Rickett, Lot 2 Wallan Heights Road, Wallan 3654 Postal Address: G.P.O. Box 6, Wallan J.B. Westacott, 30 Wallace Avenue, Toorak 3142 Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Lee, 92 Baden Powell Drive, Mt. Eliza 3920 Mrs. P. Dale, P.O. Box 109, Leongatha 3953 Francis James Gillett, 45 Batman Road, Indented Heads Ron Burnett, 56 Townsend Street, Nhill 3418 Ursula Smee, 48 Robert Street, Bentleigh 3204 Simon Kortlang, 136 Canterbury Road, Canterbury 3126 Glen Penrose, 47 Carbine Avenue, South Clayton 3169 Terry Fuhrmeister, 47 Woods Street, Ascot Vale Ken & Cathy Rogers, Lot 1 Braeside Avenue, Sherbrooke J. & V. Machar, 31 Anora Crescent, Mulgrave 3170 Julie & Bruce Hughes, 32 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield Mrs. Margaret Morgan, 108 King Street, Shorland, Newcastle F. Meaney, 72 Boundary Road, Bromana 3936 P.W. & S.M. Roberts, 1/179 Brougham Street, Kew 3101 Mrs. Irene Cullen, 39 Sunningdale Avenue, Rockedale 4123 Mr. & Mrs. D. & D. Frew, 16 Wallace Street, Bairnsdale

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



SPORE LIST - APRIL, 1984

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(*) INDICATES SPECIES IN SHORT SUPPLY
 (N) INDICATES NATIVE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES
     ADIANTUM AETHIOPICUM(1-84)
                                                COMMON MAIDENHAIR
 N
         ANCEPS (12-83)
                                                VENUS-HAIR FERN
         CAPILLUS-VENERIS(12-83)
 H
                                                TRAILING MAIDENHAIR
         CAUDATUM(3-84)
         CONCINNUM: EDWINII: (11-83)
                                                BLACK STEM
 N
         FORMOSUM(1-84)
                                                ROUGH MAIDENHAIR
         HISPIDULUM(3-84)
 N×
         PATENS (10-83)
         PEDATUM(12-83)
                                               DELTA MAIDENHAIR
         RADDIANUM(3-83)
         RADDIANUM :ELEGANS: (3-83)
         RADDIANUM :GRACILLIMUM: (3-84)
         RADDIANUM :LEGRAND MORGAN: (12-83)
         RADDIANUM :MICROPINNULUM: (3-84)
         RADDIANUM :OLD LACE: (2-84)
         RADDIANUM :PACIFIC MAID: (2-84)
         RADDIANUM : VICTORIA/S ELEGANS: (3-84)
                                                KIDNEY MAIDENHAIR
         RENIFORME(1-84)
         SILVATICUM(10-83)
         SP:(S:E:QLD)(3-84)
 N
 N
     AMPHINEURON CPULENTUM (2-84)
                                                FLOWERING HOLLY-FERN
     ANEMIA MEXICANA(12-83)
         PHYLLITIDIS(?)
     ARACHNIODES ARISTATA(3-83)
                                               PRICKLY SHIELD-FERN
 N
        ARISTATA VARIEGATA(2-84)
 ×
         SIMPLICIOR(?)
    ASPLENIUM BULBIFERUM(NATIVE) (3-84)
                                               MOTHER SPLEENWORT
N*
                                               MOTHER SPLEENWORT
        BULBIFERUM (NZ)(3-84)
        DIMORPHUM(10-83)
                                                THREE IN ONE FERN
                                               NECKLACE FERN
N×
        FLABELLIFOLIUM(3-84)
        TRICHOMANES (3-83)
                                               COMMON SPLEENWORT
N×
    ATHYMUM FILIX-FEMINA(2-84)
                                               JAPANESE PAINTED FERN
    ATHYRIUM NIPONICUM :PICTUM: (3-84)
N*
    BLECHNUM AMBIGUUM (1-83)
                                               GRISTLE FERN
        CARTILAGINEUM(12-83)
N
                                               LANCE WATER-FERN
        CHAMBERSII(2-84)
N
        FLUVIATILE(2-64)
                                               RAY WATER-FERN
        GREGSONII(1-83)
                                               SOFT WATER-FERN
N
        MINUS(2-84)
       NUDUM(1-84)
                                               FISHBONE WATER-FERN
        NUDUM :FURCANS: (6-83)
        OCCIDENTALE (3-84)
                                               HAMMOCK FERN
        PENNA-MARINA(3-83)
                                               ALPINE WATER-FERN
N*
        REVOLUTUM(?)
        TABULARE(?)
                                               HARD WATER-FERN
N
        WATTSII(2-84)
    CHEILANTHES TENUIFOLIA(3-83)
                                               ROCK FERN
                                               BINUNG
N
    CHRISTELLA DENTATA(3-83)
N
        PARASITICA(1-84)
   COLYSIS SAYERI(2-84)
    CONTOGRAMME INTERMEDIA(?)
    CONIDGRAMME FRAXINEA: MT SARAWAHET(?)
    CULCITA DUBIA(3-83)
H
                                               COMMON GROUND-FERN
    CTENITIS SLOANEI(3-84)
                                               FLORIDA TREE FERN
N.
    CYATHEA AUSTRALIS(1-84)
                                               ROUGH TREE-FERN
        BAILEYANA(8-83)
                                               WIG TREE-FERN
        BROWNII (1-84)
       COOPERI(1-84)
                                               COIN-SPOT TREE-FERN
       COOPERI:BLACK SCALES: (2-84)
                                               COIN-SPOI TREE-FERN
       CUNNINGHAMII(2-84)
                                               SLENDER TREE-FERN
       DEALBATA(1-84)
                                               SILVER TREE-FERN
       LEICHHARDTIANA(2-84)
                                              PRICKLY TREE-FERN
       MEDULLARIS(3-84)
                                              BLACK TELL-FERN
       SP:(LARGE/MALAYSIA)(TU-82)
       SP = (NEW GUIREA) (2-84)
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CYCLOSORUS TRUNCATUS (3-84)

Continued from previous page

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CYSTOPIERIS FILLA I ROGILIDAS BUD.
                                                  BRITILL BLADDER-FERN
                                                  HARLZS FOOT FERM.
       DAVALLIA PYXIDATACE 847
  N
           SOLIDA :RUFFLED ORNATA: CS 840
      DENNSTAEDTIA DAVALLIGIDUSCO 84)
                                                  LACY GROUND-FERN
                                                  SOLI TREE-FERN
      DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA(2-84)
  N
                                                  WHEKI-PONGA
           FIBROSA(11-83)
           LANATA (10-83)
                                                  BRISILY TREE-FERN
           YOUNGIAE(S:QLD FORM)(12-83)
      DIPLAZIUM ASSIMILE(10-83)
  N
                                                  AUSTRAL LADY-FERN
  N
          AUSTRALE (2-64)
                                                  PRICKLY RASP-FERN
      DOODIA ASPERA(3-84)
  NX
                                                  SMALL RASP-FERN
  HH
          CAUDATA(2-83)
                                                  COMMON RASP-FERN
  H
          MEDIA(3-84)
      DORYOPTERIS PEDATA(10-83)
                                                  HAND FERN
      DRYOPTERIS ATRATA(1-84)
                                                  SHAGGY SHIELD FERN
                                                  NARROW BUCKLER-FERN
          CARTHUSIANA(7-82)
                                                  AUTUMN FERN
          ERYTHROSORA (3-84)
          GYMNOSORUS(3-83)
          SP:(FILIX-MAS)(3-84)
                                                  (MALE FERN)
          SP = (MIXED) (3-83)
          SP (12-83)
          SP-2(2-84)
                                                  DOWNY GROUND FERN
      HYPOLEPIS PUNCTATA(3-84)
                                                  SHINY SHIELD-FERN
      LASTREOPSIS ACUMINATA(2-84)
  N
          HICROSORA(8-83)
                                                  CREEPING SHIELD-FERN
 N
          (E8-8)ATINUM
 N#
          SMITHIANA(2-83)
 N
          SP:(3 DIFFERENT SPECIES)(9-83)
 N
          SP: (6-UNKNOWN SPECIES) (9-83)
     LUNATHYRIUM JAPONICUM(1-84)
                                                 JAPANESE LADY-FERN
 N
     LYGODIUM SP:A(MALAYSIA)(10-82)
          SP:B(CIRCINNATUM/MALAYSIA)(10-82)
      MARATTIA SP:(SALICIFOLIA)(6-83)
     MICROSORIUM DIVERSIFOLIUM(2-84)
 NH
                                                 KANGAROO FERN
          PARKSII (2-84)
     NEPHROLEPIS CORDIFOLIA :PLUMOSA?: (10-83).
          :EASTERN ZIMBABWE GIANT: (?)
     OSMUNDA CINNAMOMEA(12-6-83)
                                                 CINNAMON FERN
         CLAYTONIANA(5-6-83)
                                                 INTERRUPTED FERN
 N#
     PELLAEA FALCATA(3-83)
                                                 SICKLE FERN
                                                 DWARF SICKLE-FERN
 N
         FALCATA NANA(11-83)
         PARADOXA(11-83)
 N
         ROTUNDIFOLIA(3-83) ;
                                                 BUTTON FERN
         VIRIDIS(8-82)
     PHYLLITIS SCOLOPENDRIUM(3-84)
                                                HART/S-TONGUE FERN
 N*
     PLATYCERIUM SUPERBUM(2-84)
                                                 STAGHORN FERN
     PLEUROSORUS RUTIFOLIUS(9-83)
                                                 BLANKET FERN
 N
                                                 GOLDEN POLYPODY
  Ħ
     POLYPODIUM AUREUM(3-84)
         CRASSIFOLIUM(8-83)
         FORMOSANUM(12-83)
                                                 GRUB FERN
N
     POLYSTICHUM AUSTRALIENSE(10-83)
         FORMOSUM(12-83)
                                                BROAD SHIELD-FERN
N
                                                MOTHER SHIELD-FERN
         PROLIFERUM(12-83)
N
         SETIFERUM: CULTIVAR: (2-84)
N
    PSILOTUM NUDUM(7-82)
                                                SKELETON FORK-FERN
     PTERIS COMANS(2-84)
                                                NETTED BRAKE
         CRETICA :ALBOLINEATA: (12-83) .
                                                RIBBON BRAKE
         ENSIFORMIS(10-83)
NH
                                                SLENDER BRAKE
        HENDERSONTI (2-84)
        MULTIFIDA(2-84)
                                                SPIDER BRAKE
        SEMIPINNATA (2-84)
        TREMULA(2-84)
                                                TENDER BRAKE
        UMBROSA(10-83)
                                                JUNGLE BRAKE
        VITTATA(2-83)
                                                CHINESE BRAKE
    RUMOHRA ADIANTIFORMIS(CAPE FORM)(2-84)
                                                LEATHER FERN
        ADIANTIFORMIS (NATIVE) (2-84)
                                                LEATHERY SHIELD-FERN
    STENOCHLAENA PALUSTRIS(10-82)
                                                CLIMBING SWAMP-FERN
    TAENITIS BLECHNOIDES(10-82)
    THELYPTERIS PATENS :LEPIDA: (?)
    TODEA BARBARA (12-80)
                                                KING LERR
    GROUND (FERNICLARGE ZBIPTANA) (FIDZMACAYSTA) (TO: 82)
( ) INDIGATES SPECIES IN SHORT SUPPLY
(N) INDICATES NATIVE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES
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Spore samples may be purchased at monthly meetings, or by sending a list of your requirements with 20 cents for each species required <u>plus</u> 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) $\underline{\text{or}}$ 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.

CYATHRA MARCESCENS PROPAGATED FROM SPORE?

ROD HILL

It is generally accepted that <u>Cyathea marcescens</u> (the Skirted Treefern) is a hybrid between the Rough Treefern, <u>C. australis</u> and the Slender Treefern, <u>C. cunninghamii</u>. As with many hybrids, it seems that the Skirted Treefern is sterile; all of my own many attempts to collect and grow spore have been without success.

Several years ago I was able to collect spore of <u>C. cunninghamii</u> and decided this was a perfect opportunity to attempt to cross this with <u>C. australis</u>. Many of the methods outlined in text books for crossing ferns sound rather technical and tedious and so I opted for simply sowing both spore together and allowing nature to take its course.

However, it seemed to me that sowing equal quantities of each parent would not encourage hybridization. If there are plenty of each parent present, then there seems to be a greater opportunity for each prothallus to be fertilized by the same species and less chance of cross fertilization. However, if there are only a very few of one species present, there seems (to my brand of logic anyway) to be a greater chance of these few being fertilized by the other species present in large numbers.

Armed with this conviction, I sowed a normal pot of <u>C. cunninghamii</u> and a few <u>C. australis</u> spore. From this mixed sowing, as well as large numbers of <u>C. cunninghamii</u> and a few <u>C. australis</u>, there were a handful of plants that were not clearly distinguishable as either <u>C. australis</u> or <u>C. cunninghamii</u>. They started off looking very like <u>C. cunninghamii</u> but as they grew, the fronds seems to become more like <u>C. australis</u>. However the crowns seem to retain the appearance of <u>C. cunninghamii</u>, with pale scales and dark stipes.

Although botanically, there is no definite evidence as yet that these are in fact hybrids, in my own mind I am convinced that some plants from this mixed sowing are neither <u>C. australis</u> nor <u>C. cunninghamii</u> and I am certain these will prove eventually to be <u>C. marcescens</u>.

Being a hybrid, <u>C. marcescens</u> has a very limited natural distribution, and is virtually not available commercially. So, I hope I can encourage many members to do something towards conservation of this rare treefern and attempt to grow some from spore. Fresh <u>C. cunninghamii</u> spore is now available from the spore bank and Bill has even made up some capsules of mixed <u>C. cunninghamii/australis</u> spore (with just a trace of <u>C. australis</u>) to save mixing your own.

VICTORIA

ALLGOOD PLANTS & FERNS Main Road, Emerald, Victoria Closed Mondays. A.H. (059) 684858 Retail

FERN FROND 7 391-393 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood, Victoria 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

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

NORMA'S FERNERY Carbour, via Milawa

QUEENSLAND

MORANS 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 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

VICTORIA

MT. EVELYN FERN CENTRE (WHOLESALE)
63 York Road,
Mt. Evelyn, 3796.
Phone: (03) 736 1729 (Bus.)
(03) 221 1411 (A.H.)

COOL WATERS FERN NURSERY (Wholesale Propagators)

BEECH FOREST 3237 Ph: (052) 35 9250

DIARY DATES

APRIL 12th

New Members & Gadget Night

MAY 10th

Chris Goudey:

"Identification of Fern Family"

JUNE 14th

Bob Chinnick from South Australia

"N.Z. Ferns"

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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