

### 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
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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

EDITOR: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna, 3084. Telephone: (Bus) 459 9716
(A/H) 45 2997

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Member,

Despite wintry conditions the General Meeting on June 14, 1984 was very well attended. Members were privileged to have Dr. Bob Chinnock, a senior botanist with the South Australian Herbarium as Guest Speaker. Dr. Chinnock proved to be a lucid and informative speaker whose friendly manner won him the respect and appreciation of his audience.

"Ferns of New Zealand" was the title of Dr. Chinnock's address and in this he explained the geography of the islands and the variations in climatic conditions. Overhead projection, colour photographic slides, and colour slides of an artist's paintings were all used in the making of a memorable presentation.

Next month, Senior Vice-President, Albert Jenkins, will be Guest Speaker. Albert's topic is to be "Mini Rain Forests". From time to time Members have benefited from the practical demonstrations and helpful advice unselfishly given by Albert. His talk will no doubt be one which will provide us with sound practical advice in a teach by example approach.

Thursday, July 12, 1984, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

SECRETARIAL VACANCY: The Society's need for a Secretary to replace Keith Stubbs in August is still with us.

It now seems likely that the work of Secretary will have to be broken up into smaller, easier to work segments. Such as (1) the writing and presentation of Executive Committee Minutes only; or (2) the handling of inwards and outwards correspondence only.

If you feel that you could handle either of these main tasks, please contact me. I would be delighted to discuss the work with you.

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OUR JULY SPEAKER WILL BE OUR SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT, ALBERT JENKINS. ALBERT WILL BE SPEAKING ON "MINI RAIN FORESTS". WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

## AN IMPORTANT NOTICE

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS INCORPORATION

At the May and June Executive Committee Meetings, the Executive Committee discussed at length the desirability of the Fern Society becoming an incorporated body. As a result of these discussions, it was decided to recommend to the members that this take place as a matter of importance.

Accordingly, a postal vote will be conducted before the Annual General Meeting seeking agreement of a majority of financial members to this proposal. The law requires a majority of members to agree to the proposal. A motion will then be passed at the Annual General Meeting setting up a steering committee to implement the wishes of the Society's members.

The Executive Committee is recommending incorporation of the Society as a protection for its officers and committee members in the event of any litigation against it. Whilst the Society endeavours to act in a responsible manner and takes out public risk insurance at its functions, the amount covered may not be sufficient to cover any litigation.

Details will be submitted to members with the postal vote form. It is important that members return the postal vote to the Secretary by the due date.

The authority for the Executive Committee to conduct this postal vote is contained in Clause 4(d)iii of the Society's Constitution which says:

"The Executive Committee shall have the power to make such rules and regulations for management and conduct of its meetings and activities as it may think proper and such rules and regulations shall be binding on all members."

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K.N. STUBBS

Continued from previous page

AUGUST EXHIBITION:

Organiser's Function: Maroondah S.G.A.P. Native Plant Show

Date: 4th and 5th August, 1984.

Place: Ringwood Civic Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood

Help: Please contact Bill Taylor (277 4310) if you can lend ferns, help with setting-up and/or supervision during the week-end of the exhibition.

The Winners: Ladies took off all prizes from the Special Effort segment at the June Meeting.

- 1. Beth Ward
- 2. Jean Boucher
- 3. Francis Kerr
- 4. Deborah Williams
- 5. Betty Duncan

Four potted ferns and a wire fern basket with liner were the prizes.

Congratulations to these winners.

With kindest regards DOUG THOMAS

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given of the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Fern Society of Victoria which will be held on Thursday, August 9th, 8.00 p.m. at the School Hall, Burnley College, Swan Street, Burnley.

Business transacted will be:

- To receive and deal with the Executive Committee's Report for the twelve months ending June 30, 1984.
- To receive and deal with the Treasurer's Report.
- 3. Report on the Executive Committee's recommendation to the incorporation of the Fern Society of Victoria and subject to the majority of members of the Fern Society of Victoria agreeing to incorporate the Society a steering committee be elected to complete this matter and any subsequent procedural motions to be passed by the Annual General Meeting.
- 4. Election of Office Bearers for 1984/1985.
- 5. General business.

K.N. STUBBS SECRETARY

# NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS

Nominations for Office Bearers and Executive Committee must be in the Secretary's hands in writing not less than 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Any nominations will only be accepted at the meeting if insufficient nominations have been received previously prior to the election and nominations will be accepted only from financial members.

K.N. STUBBS SECRETARY

# GENERAL BUSINESS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will discuss and vote upon, under General Business, any business matter of which 28 days written notice has been given to the Secretary. Details of any such business will be included in the August Newsletter which will be posted to all members 7 days before the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Society's Constitution.

K.N. STUBBS SECRETARY

#### POTPOURRI OF NEW ZEALAND FERNS AT JUNE MEETING

A comprehensive review of ferns growing in New Zealand was presented at the June Meeting by Dr. Bob Chinnock, a botanist with the South Australian Botanic Garden and State Herbarium.

In keeping with previous years, the Committee brought Dr. Chinnock to Melbourne as this year's special guest speaker.

The distribution of ferns in New Zealand is not confined to the two main islands. It embraces quite a range of offshore island groups, some of which are tropical and some in antarctic waters. The two main islands extend from latitude 35°N to 47°S. The southern part of the country is much farther south than the southernmost part of Tasmania and consequently is quite cold during winter.

The geography of the two main islands is also quite different to Australia. Both islands have much higher mountains with Mt. Cook rising to 3764 metres (12,349 feet). Precipitation is spread evenly throughout the year. Consequently, New Zealand has a good selection of ferns and are quite abundant e.g. tree ferns in some locations come up as weeds in back yards. "Everywhere you go you find ferns," Dr. Chinnock observed.

Fern distribution is more prolific in the south where the rainfall increases. There are more varieties, the ferns are biggger and more profuse in the trees, on the ground and along the streams. "One tends to get carried away by the fern flora," Dr. Chinnock said.

There are 169 ferns found in New Zealand with an additional 21 Adventus, 19 fern allies currently recognised and 2 adventum about to be recognised. Dr. Chinnock showed a chart comparing New Zealand with neighbouring countries (Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia plus Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island) and indicated that despite the profusion of ferns in New Zealand, it compared poorly with other areas. Australia is well ahead of New Zealand with species found but both fall considerably short of Papua New Guinea where there are more than 2,000 species!

During the slides shown, Dr. Chinnock presented a selection of colour plates which grouped species and explained where they are found in New Zealand. He also indicated that 85% of ferns in New Zealand are common and are wide spread throughout the two main islands. Tropical fern abound north of latitude 38°S (the area north of Hamilton). There are 26 ferns restricted to that region although a few of these trickle down the western side of the north island. An exception may be found in thermal areas where the soil is much warmer.

An interesting comparison was made with Australia, comparing the occurrence of hybrids. These are not common in the Australian bush but are very common in New Zealand.

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(*) INDICATES SPECIES IN SHORT SUPPLY
(N) INDICATES NATIVE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES
     ADIANTUM AETHIOPICUM(1-84)
                                                 COMMON MAIDENHAIR
         CAPILLUS-VENERIS(12-83)
                                                 VENUS-HATR FERN
N
 ¥
         CAUDATUM(3-84)
                                                 TRAILING MAIDENHAIR
 ×
         CONCINNUM:EDWINII:(11-83)
                                                 FILMY MAIDENHAIR
N*
         DIAPHANUM(3-84)
                                                 BLACK STEM
N
         FORMOSUM(3-84)
N#
                                                 ROUGH MATDENHAIR
         HISPIDULUM(3-84)
         PATENS (10-83)
         PERUVIANUM(3-84)
                                                 SILVER DOLLAR
         RADDIANUM(3-83)
                                                 DELTA MAIDENHAIR
         RADDIANUM : CRESTED MAJUS: (6-84)
         RADDIANUM :ELEGANS: (3-83)
         RADDIANUM :FRITZ LUTH: (6-84)
 *
         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)
         SILVATICUM(10-83)
N*
         TENERUM :PINK SLEEPING BEAUTY : (4-84)
 ×
N
         SP:(S:E:QLD)(3-84)
     AMPHINEURON OPULENTUM(2-84)
N
     ANEMIA MEXICANA(12-83)
                                                FLOWERING HOLLY-FERN
        PHYLLITIDIS(?)
N
     ARACHNIODES ARISTATA(3-83)
                                                PRICKLY SHIELD-FERN
         ARISTATA VARIEGATA(2-84)
         SIMPLICIOR (?)
 *
                                                MOTHER SPLEENWORT
    ASPLENIUM BULBIFERUM(NATIVE)(3-84)
N*
        BULBIFERUM (NZ)(3-84)
                                                MOTHER SPLEENWORT
        DIMORPHUM(10-83)
                                                THREE IN ONE FERN
                                                NECKLACE FERN
        FLABELLIFOLIUM(3-84)
N#
N×
         TRICHOMANES (3-83)
                                                COMMON SPLEENWORT
    ATHYMUM FILIX-FEMINA(2-84)
    ATHYRIUM NIPONICUM :PICTUM: (3-84)
                                                JAPANESE PAINTED FERN
 *
N*
    BLECHNUM AMBIGUUM(1-83)
        CARTILAGINEUM (12-83)
                                                GRISTLE FERN
N
        CHAMBERSII (2-84)
                                                LANCE WATER-FERN
        DISCOLOR(4-84)
                                                CROWN FERN
N
        FLUVIATILE(2-84)
                                                RAY WATER-FERN
                                                DWARF TREE-FERN
        GIBBUM(4-84)
N
        GREGSONII(1-83)
                                                SOFT WATER-FERN
N
        MINUS (2-84)
        NUDUM(1-84)
                                                FISHBONE WATER-FERN
N
        NUDUM : FURCANS: (6-83)
                                                HAMMOCK FERN
 *
        OCCIDENTALE(3-84)
        PATERSONII(5-84)
                                                STRAP WATER-FERN
N*
                                                ALPINE WATER-FERN
        PENNA-MARINA(3-83)
N*
 ¥
        REVOLUTUM(?)
        TABULARE(?)
N#
        VULCANICUM (4-84)
                                                WEDGE WATER-FERN
                                                HARD WATER-FERN
N
        WATTSII(2-84)
                                                ROCK FERN
И
    CHEILANTHES TENUIFOLIA(3-83)
    CHRISTELLA DENTATA(3-83)
                                                BINUNG
        PARASITICA (1-84)
N
    COLYSIS SAYERI(2-84)
N#
    CONIOGRAMME INTERMEDIA(?)
    CONIDGRAMME FRAXINEA:MT SARAWAHET(?)
    CTENITIS SLOANET(3-84)
                                                FLORIDA TREL FLRN
                                                COMMON GROUND-FERN
N
    CULCITA DUBIA(3-63)
N
    CYATHEA AUSTRALIS(1-84)
                                                ROUGH TREE-LERR
                                                WIG TREE-FERN
N#
        BAILEYANA(8-83)
        BROWNII (1-84)
                                               COIN-SPOT TREE FERN
N
        COOPERI(1-84)
                                                COIN SPOT TREE FERN
        COOPERI:BLACK SCALES: (2-84)
N
        CUNNINGHAMII(2-84)
                                                SELENDER TRUE-FERN
N
                                                SILVER TREE-FERN
        DEALBATA(1-84)
        LEICHHARDTIANA(2-84)
                                               PRICKLY TREE-FERN
        MARCESCENS (CUNNINGHAMII-AUSTRALIS MIX)(3-84)
        MEDULLARIS (3-84)
                                               BLACK TREE-LERN
        SMITHII(4-84)
        SP: (LARGE/MALAYSIA) (10-82)
        SP: (NEW GUINEA) (2-84)
    CYCLOSORUS TRUNCATUS(3-84)
    CYRTOMIUM FALCATUM(3-84)
                                               HOLLY FERN
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BRITILE BLADDER-FERN

N\* CYSTOPTERIS FILIX-FRAGILIS(2-83)

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DAVALLIA GRIFFITHIANA (5-84)
         PYXIDATA(2-84)
                                                 HARE/S FOOT FERN
N
         SOLIDA : RUFFLED ORNATA: (3-84)
    DENNSTAEDTIA DAVALLIOIDES (3-84)
                                                 LACY GROUND-FERN
N#
N
     DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA(2-84)
                                                 SOFT TREE-FERN
         FIBROSA(11-83)
                                                WHERT-PONGA
         LANATA (10-83)
         SQUARROSA(3-84)
         YOUNGIAE(S:QLD FORM)(12-83)
                                                BRISTLY TREE-FERN
    DIPLAZIUM ASSIMILE(10-83)
N
         AUSTRALE(2-84)
                                                AUSTRAL LADY-FERN
N
                                                PRICKLY RASP-FERN
N*
    DOODIA ASPERA(3-84)
                                                SMALL RASP-FERN
GIANT RASP FERN
        CAUDATA(2-83)
N×
N
        MAXIMA(5-84)
        MEDIA(3-84)
                                                COMMON RASP-FERN
N
    DORYOPTERIS PEDATA(10-83)
                                                HAND FERN
    DRYOPTERIS ATRATA(1-84)
                                                SHAGGY SHIELD FERN
                                                NARROW BUCKLER-FERN
        CARTHUSIANA (7-82)
                                                AUTUMN FERN
        ERYTHROSORA(4-84)
        GYMNOSORUS (3-83)
        SP:(FILIX-MAS)(3-84)
                                                 (MALE FERN)
        SP:(MIXED)(3-83)
        SP (12-83)
        SP-2(2-84)
    HYPOLEPIS PUNCTATA(3-84)
                                                DOWNY GROUND FERN
    LASTREOPSIS ACUMINATA(2-84)
                                                SHINY SHIELD-FERM
                                                BRISTLY SHIELD-FERN
N
        HISPIDA(4-84)
        MICROSORA(4-84)
                                                CREEPING SHIELD-FERN
N×
        (E8-8) ATINUM
N
N*
        SMITHIANA(2-83)
N
        SP:(3 DIFFERENT SPECIES)(9-83)
        SR:(6-UNKNOWN SPECIES)(9-83)
N
    LUNATHYRIUM JAPONICUM(1-84)
                                                JAPANESE LADY-FERN
    LYGODIUM MICROPHYLLUM(5-84)
                                                CLIMBING MAIDENHAIR
N
        SP:A(MALAYSIA)(10-82)
        SP:B(CIRCINNATUM/MALAYSIA)(10-82)
    MARATTIA SP: (SALICIFOLIA) (6-83)
И*
    MICROSORIUM DIVERSIFOLIUM(2-84)
                                                KANGAROO FERN
        PARKSII(2-84)
    NEPHROLEPIS CORDIFOLIA #PLUMOSA?#(10-83)
        *EASTERN ZIMBABWE GIANT: (?)
 *
    OSMUNDA CINNAMOMEA(12-6-83)
                                                CINNAMON FERN
                                               INTERRUPTED FERN
        CLAYTONIANA (5-6-83)
    PELLAEA FALCATA(3-83)
N*
                                                SICKLE FERN
N
        FALCATA NANA(11-83)
                                                DWARF SICKLE-FERN
N
        PARADOXA(11-83)
        ROTUNDIFOLIA(3-83)
                                                BUTTON FERN
        VIRIDIS(8-82)
    PHYLLITIS SCOLOPENDRIUM(3-84)
                                                HART/S-TONGUE FERN
    PLATYCERIUM SUPERBUM(2-84)
                                                STAGHORN FERN
N*
    PLEUROSORUS RUTIFOLIUS(8-83)
                                                BLANKET FERN
N
    POLYPODIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM(4-84)
                                                NARROW LEAF STRAP FERN
×
        AUREUM(3-84)
                                                GOLDEN POLYPODY
 *
        FORMOSANUM(12-83)
                                                GRUB FERN
    POLYSTICHUM AUSTRALIENSE(10-83)
N
N
        FORMOSUM(12-83)
                                                BROAD SHIELD-FERN
        PROLIFERUM(12-83)
                                              MOTHER SHIELD-FERN
N
        SETIFERUM: CULTIVAR: (2-84)
 ×
                                                TSUS-SIMA HOLLY-FERN
 ×
        TSUS-SIMENSE(4-84)
    PSILOTUM NUDUM (7-82)
                                                SKELETON FORK-FERN
N
                                                NETTED BRAKE
N
    PTERIS COMANS(2-84)
                                                RIBBON BRAKE
        CRETICA :ALBOLINEATA: (12-83)
N×
        ENSIFORMIS(10-83)
                                                SLENDER BRAKE
        HENDERSONII (2-84)
                                                NEW ZEALAND BRAKE
        MACILENTA(4-84)
        MULTIFIDA(2-84)
                                                SPIDER BRAKE
        SEMIPINNATA(2-84)
N
        TREMULA(2-84)
                                                TENDER BRAKE
                                                JUNGLE BRAKE
        UMBROSA(10-83)
N
N
        VITTATA(4-84)
                                                CHINESE BRAKE
    RUMOHRA ADIANTIFORMIS(CAPE FORM) (2-84)
                                                LEATHER FERN
        ADIANTIFORMIS(NATIVE)(2-84)
                                                LEATHERY SHIELD-FERN
N
    SCYPHULARIA PENTAPHYLLA(4-84)
                                                BLACK CATERPILLAR FERN
И
    STENOCHLAENA PALUSTRIS(10-82)
                                                CLIMUING SWAMP-FERN
N
    TAENITIS BLECHNOIDES(10-82)
    THELYPTERIS PATENS #LEPIDA# (?)
    TODEA BARBARA(12-83)
                                                KING FEEN
    GROUND-FERN(LARGE/BIPINNATIFID/MALAYSIA)(40-82)
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<sup>(\*)</sup> INDICATES SPECIES IN SHORT SUPPLY

<sup>(</sup>N) INDICATES NATIVE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES

#### SPORE LIST - JULY:

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 Burke Road, Camberwell 3124.

A cheque made payable to "The Fern Society of Victoria" is the preferred method of payment for spore. Postage stamps in 30, 10 and 5 cent denominations may also be forwarded for small orders. Please allow two to three weeks for postage.

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 of some species are depleted.

Instructions on propagation from spore are also available for an extra 10 cents.

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# RAIN FOREST AND FERN GULLIES (Continued from the June issue)

Dorrigo: North eastern New South Wales.

Present-day Dorrigo is a tiny but busy township of 1200 people. It is situated in the heart of some of the richest dairying country in Australia and lies atop of the Dorrigo - Guy Fawkes Plateau, 45 kms west of Urunga and 127 kms east of Armidale.

Like many areas in the north east coastal regions of New South Wales, Dorrigo achieved its present-day prosperity through the mammoth endeavours of early pioneers and settlers. The land that is today lush dairying country was once abundant sub-tropical rain forest, supporting trees of enormous size together with their encumbent water vines, ferns, orchids and creepers.

The white man of the mid-1800s saw nothing of beauty in these magnificent forests. He saw only that the cedar and other trees were worth money. So, they were felled and converted to timber. Destruction of the forests opened the way for subsequent clearing and the setting up of the dairying and fat lamb industries.

It is ironic that the settlement of a vast area of north eastern New South Wales including Dorrigo, came about as the result of the escape of a convict, Richard Craig, from the Moreton Bay Settlement in Oueensland.

Craig made his way south and in desperation sought and received asylum from Aborigines in the Plateau area. As a result of his movements through the bushland with his host tribe, he became familiar, not only with the ways of the Aborigines but with the system of rivers and their water shedding. Eventually Craig threw himself on the mercy of authorities in Sydney. He then successfully bargained for his life and subsequent pardon with his detailed information about the Dorrigo - Guy Fawkes Plateau and country further north.

So it was that Dorrigo came into being and fortunately for people like us, two fine areas of subtropical rain forest measuring a total 3,949 hectares (9,757 acres) have been saved.

Three kilometres south east of Dorrigo on the Bellingen Road is the Dorrigo National Park where the vegetation is almost untouched by Continued from previous page

logging. A second area called Never Never lies eleven kilometres to the north east. The forests here have been heavily logged and the vegetation to be seen today is congested regeneration.

At the Dorrigo an area has been cleared at the entrance and is called "The Glade". This is an immaculately kept clearing which contains clean toilets, barbeques, shelters and picnic tables. This clearing is a haven for wild life which emerges from the forest at "quiet" times to seek tit bits of food left behind by visitors. Brush Turkeys, Satin Bower birds, Wonga pigeons, Green Cat birds, Pied Currawongs and tiny Pademelon wallabies are just a few species that you can expect to see.

Walks through the rain forest are along well formed walking trails and involve a circuit of eight kilometres. Alternatively, shorter walks to two waterfalls and return to the Glade may be taken. To many visitors these are more attractive propositions.

The abundant fern species seen along the way are typical of those described in this series for other rain forests in New South Wales. However there are several species at Dorrigo which are unusual and for which a search is well worth the trouble.

Look among the rocky walls of cuttings and on the bases of tree trunks for the attractive strap-like Asplenium Attenuatum. This fern, dark green in colour, reproduces from bulbils and plantlets on the ends of its fronds as well as from the conventional spores.

A lovely, compact lady fern will be found growing in the soil which is different to others seen in the State. This is Diplazium Assimile, a fine, lacey and beautiful plant. It is plentiful in this park but scarcer elsewhere.

A fern which prefers the same environment as Asplenium Attenuatum is the creeper, Athropteris Palisottii. It tolerates dark situations and is equally at home on rocks as it is on trees. It closely resembles the climbing shield fern, Arthropteris Tenella and is not abundant in New South Wales.

Another interesting plant is the Lepidozamia palm which grows to 1.2m (4 feet) high. Its fruit is shaped like a pineapple and coloured bright orange when mature. Growing strongly on the trunks of these palms are felt ferns, Pyrossia Confluens. At first you will think this strange because the trunk looks tough, harsh and dry. Rub your hands along the trunk and you will be surprised at how soft and velvety the material feels.

Dorrigo - Yet another great place for a holiday.

DOUG THOMAS

Historical References: The Settlement of Guy Fawkes and Dorrigo - E.J. Fahey, 1976.

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# MORANS HIGHWAY NURSERY FERN SPECIALISTS

102Km north of Brisbane, lKm north of the "The Big Pineapple". Phone day or night (071) 42 1613 or 41 3423. P.O. Box 47, Woombye 4559.

Wholesale and Retail - Catering for popular and specialist fern collectors, mature plants and tubes, lists available, plants forwarded anywhere in Australia.

Closed Mondays - except public holidays or by appointment.

## BEGINNERS' PAGE:

Most of us would realize that the TV ad where the nurseryman tells the garage proprietor "Your Cocos plumosa needs repotting" stresses the fact that each is an expert in his field.

For a budding fern enthusiast, expert advice is essential, so first priority is join a Fern Society. If attending Society meetings is difficult, then a reliable nurseryman could be of great assistance providing he regards your success rate highly.

The following guide may help:

- 1. DOES THE NURSERYMAN HAVE A GOOD RANGE OF FERNS?
- 2. DO THEY LOOK WELL GROWN AND HARDENED OFF?
- 3. ARE THEY LABELLED AND PRICE MARKED?
- 4. CAN THE NURSERYMAN NAME THEM WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE LABELS?
- 5. CAN HE ADVISE ON THEIR LIKES AND DISLIKES?
- 6. DO YOU FEEL INSIDE THAT HE IS A PERSON YOU CAN TRUST?

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#### NEW MEMBERS:

The Fern Society of Victoria wish to extend a warm welcome to those new members who joined the ranks over the past two months.

Martin Johnson, 136 Clarinda Road, CLARINDA 3169
Reg Hadingham, 10 Robina Road, EAGLEMONT 3084
Mrs. Bev Dixon, C/- 1192 Malvern Road, MALVERN 3144
J.S. Dunkley, P.O. Box 131, SORRENTO 3943
Keith Rothe, 136 Swanport Road, MURRAY BRIDGE S.A. 5253
Mr. Robert Peckham, 47 Gove Street, SPRINGVALE 3171
Mrs. Fay Simms, 47 Pendall Street, BOX HILL 3128
Linden Hope, 45 Callantina Road, HAWTHORN 3122
C. Matuschka, 274 Townsend Street, ALBURY 2540
Suzanne Hitchen, P.O. Box 170, BERWICK 3806
Estelle Haynes, 9 Eucalyptus Road, ELTHAM 3095
Marie Van Etten, 610 Valle Vista Drive, BRANDON FL. 33511 U.S.A.
Phyllis Bates, 554 Arden Drive, ENCINITAS CALIFORNIA 92024 U.S.A.

#### A NOTE FROM OUR NEWSLETTER "DISTRIBUTION CENTRE"

If any addresses are incorrect, or if any member is not receiving the newsletter regularly, please contact Jean Trudgeon on 459 4859, or write to Jean, C/- Box 45, Heidelberg West, 3081.

Twelve newsletters were returned this month, but no notice of change of address has been received from the members concerned.

# JEAN TRUDGEON TREASURER

P.S. If your subscription is right up to date, why not encourage a friend to join the Society by passing along the subscription form?

#### REPORT ON EAST GIPPSLAND TOUR

Despite the early hour, forty-three fern lovers managed to rendezvous with the bus on Saturday, May 19. It was a successful start to what was a very enjoyable weekend.

The complement included country members from as far away as Wangaratta and Colac and nine visitors from the South Australian Fern Society who had driven all night to join us. After picking up passengers from Hallam, Berwick, Garfield and Morwell, we made our way (eventually) to the Den of Nargun via the scenic route which took in deserted roads with glimpses of wild emus.

Located alongside the Mitchell River Gorge on the North of the Princess Highway, the Den of Nargun is in the Glenalandale National Park near Bairnsdale. On arrival at the National Park we enjoyed a barbeque lunch, provided by the Bus Company, and then made our way down the rocky gorge to the Den of Nargun, which is a large cave and water hole under a waterfall on the Woodshed Creek. After recovering from the long uphill haul back to where the bus was parked we climbed aboard and proceeded on to Lakes Entrance and then Lake Tyers where we had the locals anxiously watching out for us as we were very late. We stayed overnight in the Uniting Church Cabins where the facilities and cabins were excellent. Everyone pitched in and helped with the evening meal which was first class. Then we all turned in for an early night.

After gazing at the magnificent sunrise over Lake Tyers, we were on the bus and on our way by 7.00 a.m. Sunday morning. Our first stop was the Euchre Valley Nature Drive at Club Terrace. Here we were able to view pockets of sub-tropical rainforest which consisted of Lilly-Pilly, gums, vines and an abundance of sub-tropical and cool temperate ferns. The Nature Drive was a bit of a nightmare for our coach driver as he negotiated the narrow track and curves and the small wooden bridges. At one stage one bridge was only able to handle a two ton load (according to its warning sign) and we had to disembark to lighten the load on our twelve ton bus! But great joy! While the bus was trying the bridge, someone discovered a clump of Lindsaea Microphylla growing on the embankment. This meant a rush to the bus for cameras and it took a little longer to finally get everyone back on the coach.

We left Club Terrace and shortly after we arrived at Noorinbee and the Cann River where we did a sort of 'Harry Butler' expedition along the rich river flats to view the Black Stem Maidenhair Adiantum Formosum growing in the wild amid many other ferns and foliage.

Continued overleaf

From the Cann River we headed north-east toward the State border and the Nadgee State Forest which is just over the border from Genoa. The route gave us a chance to see the extensive damage the 1983 bushfires did to this wild region and to note that nature was not tardy when it came to regeneration. We arrived at about 11.30 a.m. and after a magnificent lunch (the bus company again) we made our way into the jungle. By now we even had the bus driver enthusiastically looking for ferns as we made our way down the gully. We were pleased to note that the Forest Commission Rangers at Eden had removed the log that had previously been blocking the path. The valley was very beautiful with subtropical and cool temperate ferns in abundance. We spent about three hours in this paradise before beginning the long trip back to Melbourne.

Our thanks must go to the driver of our coach who managed the bogging tracks, small wooden bridges, badly read maps, the toilet stops that were supposed to be ten but were twenty minutes and the endless miles of heavy fog on the way back for a delightful and safe weekend with everybody carefully deposited at their dropping off points. The bus finally reached the depot with the last of us at 11.30 p.m. and we said goodbye.

The following is a list of ferns seen on the trip to East Gippsland:

Adiantum aethiopicum

formosum

Asplenium flabellifolium

bulbiferum

Allantodea australe Blechnum cartilagineum

- pattersonii
- \*\* nudum
- minus

Cyathea australis

- leichhardtiana
- marcescens

Culcita dubia

Dennstaedtia davallioides

Doodia aspera

media

Dicksonia Antartica Gleichenia dicarpa

Histiopteris incisa

Lastreopsis acuminata

microsora Lindsaea microphylla

Pteris umbrussa

tremula

Pteridium esculontum

Phyrretosorus diversifutium - Kangaroo fern

Pyrossia rupestris

Polyphlebium venosum

Macroglenia caudata

Humenuphyllum australe

Rumohra adiantiformis

Tmesipteris sp.

Sticherus tener

- Common Maidenhair
- Blackstem Maidenhair
- Necklace fern
- Hen & Chicken fern
- Austral lady fern
- Gristle fern
- Strap water fern
- Fishbone water fern
- Soft water fern
- Rough tree fern
- Prickly tree fern
- Skirted tree fern
- Rainbow fern
- Lacy ground fern
- Prickly Rasp fern
- Common Rasp fern
- Soft tree fern
- Pouched Coral fern
- Batswing fern
- Shiny shield fern
- Creeping shield fern

- Jungle brake fern
- Tender brake fern
- Bracken
- scandens Fragrant fern
  - Rock felt fern
  - Veined bristle fern
    - Jungle bristle fern
    - Austral filmy fern
    - Shield hare's-foot
  - Fork fern
  - Silky fan fern

#### VICTORIA

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

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

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"MARION'S NURSERY"
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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

EAST COAST FERNS 30 Km north of Grafton on the Pacific Highway Northern N.S.W.

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# DIARY DATES

Thursday

Albert Jenkins

JULY 12th

"Mini Rain Forests" and slides of

recent South Gippsland Excursion

Thursday AUGUST 9th Annual General Meeting and

demonstrations

Thursday

Photography night hosted by

SEPTEMBER 13th Keith Hutchinson

Thursday

Rod Hill - "Spores"

OCTOBER 11th

Thursday

Chris Goudey

NOVEMBER 8th

"Diversity of Fern Habitats"

Thursday

Fern Forum and Christmas Meeting

DECEMBER 13th

In the event of a power strike on the NOTE: 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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