THE IERA SOCIETH

> OF VETORIA

REWSICTUR

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6

JULY, 1985

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The June Meeting:

It was almost "standing room only" at our June 13th meeting; a very busy meeting when a heavy volume of business was transacted. The main attraction however was a splendid talk an exhibition of colour slides by Rod Hill. By means of his colour slides, Rod took us into subtropical rain forest areas in southeast Queensland, visiting marvellous places like Lamington National Park, the Natural Arch National Park, Springbrook National Park and Stradbroke Island.

Rod's talk was of a teaching type, wherein he showed us the natural habitats and conditions in which ferns thrive, and then related these to what we as fern enthusiasts need to do to simulate them in our private collections. Rod showed us graphically what effect lack of light has on the growth of ferns in nature and how to use nature's methods in dealing with our native terrestrial and epiphytic ferns.

Rod had come across two thriving exotic species which had colonized in areas of south-east Queensland. One was the gold-back fern; Pityrogramma Astro-americana, and the other; Holly fern - Cyrtomium Falcatum.

This was an interesting and enjoyable talk and we thank Rod for sharing its content with us. The talk is fully reported in other pages.

<u>Special Effort</u>: The special effort competition this month offered nine prizes to lucky members.

The winners were:

John Oliver
Bill Bright
John Heath
M.J. Gregory (three prizes)
Rod McConchie
Alison Whytecross
Derek Griffiths

Congratulations Winners!

Rippon Lea - Special Effort Launch:
For the next two months, the prizes for the Special Effort segment at General Meetings are to be highly valuable and unusual exotic ferns. The proceeds from these competitions are to be directed to a fund set up to purchase fern species which will be needed for the Rippon Lea Fernery replanting, but which may not be readily donated by Members.

The prizes, all donated by Chris Goudey, come from his magnificent collection at Lara. He displayed some of these ferns at our June meeting and said that all are hardy and capable of being grown in an unheated glasshouse.

I sincerely hope that by now every Member of this Society will realize the importance of our involvement in the Rippon Lea project.

Continued on next page



THE SPEAKER AT OUR JULY MEETING WILL BE

MR. GEOFF CONNELLAN WHOSE SUBJECT WILL BE

"CONTROLLING THE ENVIRONMENT" - AN INTERESTING

EVENING IS ASSURED, SO BRAVE THE COLD AND

JOIN US ON THURSDAY, JULY 11TH.

A visitor to our June meeting was the Curator of the gardens at Rippon Lea, Mr. Oliver Frost. In a chat with Mr. Frost after the meeting, he disclosed that our contribution to the project would be acknowledged by the installation of a plaque to that effect in the fernery. A notice such as this will bring this Society to the attention of Rippon Lea visitors from all over the world.

There is no way to measure the magnitude of such publicity.

Let each one of us be worthy of this opportunity and make a real effort to do just a little bit to make it a great success. If you feel that you cannot donate a fern or ferns, then the next best thing could possibly be a small cash donation. Your efforts in either respect will be greatly appreciated.

Next Meeting:

Guest Speaker at our next general meeting will be Mr. Geoff Connellan whose topic is titled, "Controlling the Environment". The date is Thursday, 11th July, 1985 commencing at 8.00 p.m. and the place, Burnley Horticultural College Hall, Swan Street, Burnley.

Volunteer Workers Welcome:

We thank Joy Horman and Joan McConchie for their decision to assist with the implementation of the special effort competition at general meetings.

Situations Vacant:

(a) Under the terms of Incorporation, we have urgent need of the services of a qualified Public Accountant to audit the Society's financial balances.

The balance sheet is due for presentation to Members in August and we would appreciate a volunteer from our own ranks who would do-this work; preferably unpaid.

(b) Members are reminded that we must have an election of Office Bearers at the Annual Meeting in August. Every position becomes vacant and Members who feel that they would like to take up administrative work for the Society should be sure to nominate.

Nomination forms are available from Secretary, Bernadette Blackstock or myself.

With kindest regards, DOUG THOMAS

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FERN HABITATS IN SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

While there are a few fern species which are fairly widespread in South-East Queensland, each species tends to be confined to a fairly restricted habitat. Obviously each type of habitat will provide conditions suiting some species but not others. It is often possible to judge, fairly accurately, many of the fern species which will be encountered in a particular location just by examining the available habitats. Furthermore, a study of fern habitats provides invaluable information regarding the cultivation of ferns.

(A) SUBTROPICAL RAINFOREST:

This is the habitat most commonly associated with ferns in South-East Queensland and excellent examples of subtropical rainforest are readily accessible at the following locations:

- Cunningham's Gap (110 km S.W. of Brisbane.)
- Gold Coast Hinterland (Gwongorella and Warrie National Parks near Springbrook, Natural Arch N.P. in the Numinbah Valley and Lamington N.P. in the McPherson Range, all directly inland from the Gold Coast. The best access to Lamington N.P. is at Binna Burra.)
 - Tamborine Mountain (70 km south of Brisbane.)
 - Maiala N.P. and Mt. Nebo (40 km N.W. of Brisbane.)

Even within the rainforest, there are a number of different habitats apparent, each supporting its own range of fern species.

- (i) The Rainforest Floor supports a number of ferns with long stipes, broadly-triangular midto dark-green fronds and rounded sori. Ferns fitting this description belong to the closely related genera Lastreopsis and Arachniodes. The following simple key should assist with identification of the most commonly encountered members of these genera.
- l Fronds dark green, shiny; usually grows in dark, wet situations.
 - 2 Sori dark brown or black, with prominent kidney-shaped indusia; fronds commonly 60-100 cm, tripinnatifid.
 - 3 Sori not marginal, dark brown; pinnules with long bristle-like points Arachniodes aristata
 - 3* Sori marginal, black when mature; pinnules not pointed Lastreopsis marginans
 - 2* Sori pinkish-brown, lacking indusia; fronds commonly 30-60 cm, bipinnatifid L. munita
- 1* Fronds mid-green, dull; often forming extensive patches
 on more open rainforest slopes.
 - 4 In the upper section of frond at least, the first of the lower secondary pinnae are attached directly to the main rhachis; pinnules pointed L. decomposita
 - 4* Lower secondary pinnae not arising directly from the main rhachis; pinnules not pointed L. microsora

While L. acuminata, L. silvestris and L. smithiana also occur in S.E. Queensland and add further confusion to this group, they are not common and are seldom encountered.

Other terrestrial species of the rainforest floor include Adiantum formosum, A. silvaticum, Blechnum patersonii, Diplazium assimile, Polystichum formosum, Pteris comans, P. umbrosa and Todea barbara (the Qld. form with bronze new growth).

Other species of the rainforest floor such as Adiantum diaphanum, Asplenium attenuatum, Pellaea falcata nana (and less commonly P. falcata itself) and Nephrolepis cordifolia are found growing amongst rocks or even on the rocks themselves.

The dominant treefern species is usually Cyathea leichhardtiana, with occasional C. australis and C. cooperi. Dicksonia youngiae and D. antarctica are fairly rare.

In cultivation, most of these species of the rainforest floor will grow quite well in an outdoor shade house in Melbourne. Rainforests are often found at higher elevations where temperatures are lower and these ferns will generally survive our winters (although growth may be slow). They tend to require constant moist conditions during the summer months and appreciate a good layer of mulch and protection from drying winds.

It will be observed that in the very darkest sections of rainforest, very few ferns thrive. The most prolific growth is along roadsides, tracks and creek banks where there is a break in the canopy admitting more light. Hence, providing moisture levels are maintained, these ferns often grow better in cultivation with more light than might be observed in nature.

(ii) Lower Tree Trunks in the rainforest support a few tufted epiphytes such as Vittaria elongata, with the appearance of tufts of grass, and the filmy-fern, Macroglena caudata, which often decorates the trunks of Cyathea leichhardtiana and C. australis.

More common however are the climbing epiphytes, Microsorium scandens, Arthropteris tenella and A. beckleri (and also, north of Brisbane at Kondalilla Falls, Teratophyllum brightiae). These initially grow as tiny creepers, often forming dense mats over small rocks on the rainforest floor. When they encounter a suitable host, they begin to climb rapidly and the fronds dramatically increase in size, often also taking on a new shape.

These tend to be difficult to establish in outdoor cultivation in Melbourne, requiring constant humid conditions to enable their rhizomes to establish on a suitable host.

(iii) Upper Branches of Rainforest Trees also support numerous epiphytes especially adapted to survive these dryer conditions. Platycerium bifurcatum, P. superbum and Drynaria rigidula grow special "nest-leaves" to catch falling leaves and other debris, providing nourishment and enabling the fern to conserve moisture. The funnel shaped crown of Asplenium australasicum, the Bird's-nest fern, has the same effect. A. polyodon (A. falcatum) and

Davallia pyxidata survive by growing in the mulch collected by the previous species. Dictymia brownii, Pyrrosia rupestris and P. confluens have thick succulent leaves to store water.

These adaptations enable these species to grow in trees in more open forest and on rocky cliffs and cuttings in fairly exposed situations. In cultivation in Melbourne, these are all quite hardy outdoors, requiring a position with good light (e.g. morning sun) and plenty of moisture in summer (preferring dryer conditions in the cooler weather).

(B) OPEN FOREST:

In most of the locations already listed, areas of more open forest, dominated by Eucalypts, with grass beneath, may be found bordering the rainforest. Another interesting area of open forest is located on Mt. Coot-tha, about 5 km west of the centre of Brisbane.

A number of familiar, hardy Victorian species will be encountered in these areas, including Pteridium esculentum, Culcita dubia, Blechnum cartilagineum, Cyathea australis, Adiantum aethiopicum (the Qld. form being rather distinct from our own) and Lindsaea linearis. Sticherus lobatus forms extensive patches on moister slopes, as does Gleichenia rupestris. Lindsaea microphylla is often common on exposed rocky or clay banks. Rocks and tussocks of grass often protect species such as Doodia caudata (in a variety of forms), Pellaea paradoxa, Adiantum hispidulum (also showing much variation, including the form available commercially as Adiantum sp. aff. whitei) and a number of species and forms of Cheilanthes. The exotic Gold-dust fern, Pityrogramma austroamericana, has become naturalised in many areas, especially on roadside cuttings.

With one or two exceptions, these ferns are also very hardy in outdoor cultivation in Melbourne. They generally prefer good light, protection from wind, and moist conditions through the summer. A rockery environment seems to suit many of these ferns.

(C) SWAMPS:

In South-East Queensland, large areas of lowland swamp and marshy creeks and lagoons are found along the coastal highways north and south of Brisbane and on the offshore islands. These areas support numerous ferns, often quite unique to this habitat.

Species such as Blechnum indicum, Cyclosorus interruptus, Christella dentata, Lygodium microphyllum, Dicranopteris linearis, Hypolepis muelleri and Lycopodium cernuum often thrive in full sun in swampy ground. Some of these are also found in more sheltered swamps amongst paperbark trees along with Todea barbara, Cyathea cooperi and Lindsaea ensifolia. Gleichenia species will also be found in these areas. A number of these species, especially Dicranopteris linearis and Lycopodium cernuum, readily colonize nearby roadside cuttings and ditches.

Being lowland species, few of these ferns will tolerate our cold winter months. Imitating the swampy conditions preferred by these ferns also makes them difficult to cultivate.

One other species is found in quite a different type of swamp. Amongst the mangrove swamps bordering sheltered coastal waters, Acrostichum speciosum thrives in what would appear to be a most inhospitable habitat for a fern.

One last species of fern is worthy of mention just for the novelty of its occurrence and its habitat. On the east coast of North Stradbroke Is., on the rocky walls of deep ravines, it was surprising to find large and very healthy clumps of Cyrtomium falcatum established. The commonly cultivated Holly fern is not native, but is of Japanese origin, and has apparently become naturalised in a number of areas along the east coast.

My attempts here to classify ferns according to their native habitat are of course not fool-proof, but only rough guidelines. The division between habitats is often not clear-cut; more often one habitat will merge into another. The ferns themselves are not usually so obliging as to grow in only one specific habitat, but will frequently be at home in a range of habitats, and will occassionly appear in quite unusual situations.

Nevertheless, it will certainly be true that to observe native ferns growing in the wild will be of great assistance to those wishing to provide optimum conditions for their cultivation.

Rod Hill.

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Notice is given of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Fern Society of Victoria Inc. which will be held on Thursday, 8th August, 8.00 p.m. at the School Hall, Burnley College, Swan Street, Burnley.

Business transacted will be:

- 1. To receive and deal with the Executive Committee's Report for the twelve months ending June 30th, 1985.
- 2. To receive and deal with the Treasurer's Report.
- 3. Election of Office Bearers for 1985/1986.
- 4. Report to the Committee of Management recommendation to incorporate parts of the by-laws into the Model Rules.
- 5. General business.

GENERAL BUSINESS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will discuss and vote upon, under General Businss, any business matter of which 14 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.

BERNADETTE	BLACKSTOCK
SECRETARY	

	COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
Fern Society of	Victoria - Nomination for Office Bearers
I nominate	for the position of
	for the financial year 1985/86.
Signed Proposer:	
Signed Nominee:	
Signed Seconder:	

at least fourteen days before Annual General Meeting.

Nominations to the Secretary:

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.

Bernadette Blackstock 65 Hobson Street NEWPORT 3015

The Terrarium (Continued from the June issue)

2. Fish Tanks as an Alternative:

A very useful alternative to the Wardian Case is a simple glass fish aquarium. The size would depend on personal preference but probably a rectangular one measuring 533mm (21") wide, 305mm (12") high and 253mm (10") deep would be a good size with which to start. Make certain that when you purchase your fish tank, you also purchase the fluorescent light assembly that goes with it.

You may also have to provide a sheet of glass to cover the top. All setting up and maintenance has to be done from the top.

The fish tank terrarium can be set up first as it is, on an occasional or hall table. If you prefer, a special piece of furniture can be designed and made to hold it. Another treatment which may appeal to you is the setting up of the terrarium in a wall-niche in much the same way as an aquarium tank is inserted.

3. Soil Mixtures and Preparation:

The preparation of the soil is simple but ingredients need to be sterilized.

Here is a suggested sequence of steps for the preparation.

- 1. Set aside enough coarse gravel to cover the bottom of the tank to a depth of $19\,\mathrm{mm}$ (3/4").
- 2. Do the same with fairly coarse charcoal. Enough to make a covering layer over the gravel.
- 3. Place the gravel and charcoal in separate fine mesh sieves and pour boiling water over each. Allow the water to drain off.
- Make a layer of gravel; as at Step 1: on the floor of the tank, then cover this with charcoal.
- 5. If you like making up your own mixtures, take equal parts by measure of peat moss, sphagnum moss, tree fern fibre, propagating sand, and leaf mould. Mix well together, place in a fine mesh sieve and pour boiling water over the mass, making sure that the whole of it is treated.

When drained of surplus water and the mixture is comfortable to handle, add it to the terrarium as a thick layer, say to $50\,\mathrm{mm}$ (2") over the sterilized charcoal.

- 6. <u>Decoration</u>: Before you introduce the plants, give some thought to the introduction of some items of decoration. The type I have in mind is in the form of little coloured pebbles or granite pieces. Pour boiling water over them before installing.
- 7. The unit is now ready to receive the plants.

An Alternative: The Idaho Nursery Sterilized African Violet Mix is an efficient alternative to making up your own mixtures. We can use this mix for terrariums in perfect safety without any further preparation. Make sure, however, that the gravel and charcoal are used as a drainage base as described at Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Sterilized African Violet mix is available at Society meetings. It is not expensive.

We are indebted to Vice-President Bill Taylor for his experimental work with this medium and for sharing his findings with us.

(To be continued - next month Planting and Maintenance)

DOUG THOMAS

BY-LAW PROPOSALS

At last year's Annual General Meeting, the Society resolved to become incorporated and adopt the "Model Rules for an Incorporated Society".

At that time, we foreshadowed that by-laws would need to be passed to bring certain sections of the rules closer to the Constitution of the Society which lapsed upon Incorporation. These alterations will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting in August.

The alterations include:

- 1. Stating the objectives of the Society.
- 2. Delegation of certain powers to a Membership Sub-Committee.
- 3. Inclusion of types of membership.
- 4. Revision of subscription rates in line with the current rates.
- 5. Alter the numbers of the Management Committee by:
 - (a) increasing Vice-Presidents from 1 to 2
 - (b) include immediate Past President
 - (c) increase the size of the Committee to no more than 6 ordinary members.
- 6. Include the Clause from the Constitution limiting a President's term of office to three years at any one time.

Should members require copies of these procedural changes prior to the Annual General Meeting, please send a self-adddressed envelope to:

K.N. Stubbs
14 Afton Street
ESSENDON VIC. 3040

LORD HOWE ISLAND, A FERN PARADISE

On the 17th May, 1985 at about 6.00 p.m., seventeen fern-lovers met at the Deluxe Coachlines depot in Melbourne for the overnight journey to Sydney. We picked up three more in Wangaratta and the last two in Sydney.

Our holiday began in earnest at Sydney, when we boarded the two chartered Super King Airplanes for Lord Howe Island. The weather was fine and the flights were good, with fantastic views of Sydney Harbour on leaving and of Lord Howe Island on our arrival. On Lord Howe Island, we were met by our hosts Rupert Giles and Ernie Whitfield who transferred us to the 'Polynesian' and the 'Hideaway' for our stay on Lord Howe Island.

After a quick meal, we were on our bikes and off in all directions, with such glorious weather, we just had to get out and enjoy it. One of the most common ferns on the island is the Elkhorn Fern Platycerium bifurcatum. Everywhere we went, it filled the trees. A very attractive fern Microsorium sp. aff. diversifolium was very common, together with the Fishbone Fern Nephrolepis cordifolia.

Palm trees were everywhere, the Thatch Palm Howeana forsteriana and the Curly Palm Howeana belmoreana. Another common fern which grew mostly on coral rock was a very attractive Shining Spleenwort Asplenium milnei.

The next morning, the sun was shining when we headed off to climb the Malabar, at the north end of the island. We saw an abundance of the lowland fern species along the track. As we climbed up among the boulders, we noticed that many of the large rocks were covered on the sheltered sides with a most attractive Rock Felt Fern Pyrrosia confluens. Further on, up the track we saw an abundance of Bristly Cloak Fern Cheilanthes distans, Birds Nest Ferns Asplenium australasicum appeared here and there among the rocks, together with the Sickle Fern Pellaea falcata.

As we climbed further up the ridge, we came across a large patch of Arthropteris tenella climbing over the rocks and up the trees and one solitary plant of the Celery Fern Asplenium pteridioides. This fern is only supposed to grow in the southern mountains. Epiphytic orchids were common in the trees, Dendrobium gracilicaule var. howeanum. On reaching the top, the view was fantastic looking back over the rest of the island. We worked our way along the cliff top track to Kim's Lookout and then back home again on the North Bay track.

On our way down the hill, we noticed occasional plants of the endemic Brake Fern Pteris microptera, a most attractive fern with large fronds up to a metre long and almost as broad.

The following night it rained all night, it had stopped by morning, but was still overcast. A few of us decided to head off for the Goat House which is a large cave on the north-eastern slopes of Mount Lidgebird (475m, 1200-1400ft in altitude). The track starts at the Mountain Inn and climbs up alongside the Big Creek to Smoking Tree Ridge and then to the Goat House. Elkhorn Ferns were everywhere, together with all the lowland fern species. Two different treefern species grew in the Big Creek valley, Cyathea macarthuri and the beautiful C. robusta, together with Diplazium melanochlamys. As we got close to the Goat House, we saw the Rasp Fern Doodia media, the Celery Fern Asplenium pteridioides, together with the Mares Tail A. polyodon.

Other ferns we saw were $\underline{Polystichum\ whiteleggei}$ and $\underline{Lastreopsis}$ $\underline{nephrodioides}$, together with the Skeleton Fork Fern $\underline{Psilotum\ nudum}$.

The wind was blowing a gale at the Goat House, but as we made our way around the back to a rainforest pocket, it became quite calm. Cyathea howeana grew out in the full sun, together with the other two treeferns. We found the two endemic Finger Ferns Grammitis diminuta together with a large terrestrial Filmy and G. wattsii, Callistopteris baueriana which resembled the beautiful Prince of Wales Plume from New Zealand Leptopteris superba. We also saw several large plants of the Tassel Fern Lycopodium myrtifolium. There was an abundance of ferns everywhere. It was here that we first noticed the beautiful Big Mountain Palm Hedyscepe canterburyana, with its large arching fronds and pure white sheath at the base of the fronds. Other ferns we saw were the Rough Maidenhair Adiantum hispidulum, the Fork Fern Tmesipteris truncata, Arthropteris tenella and a most attractive large Blechnum species, Blechnum sp. aff. wattsii. Other plants of interest were the Mountain Rose Metrosideros nervulosa and The Lookout Tree Dracophyllum fitzgeraldii.

Soon after our arrival, it started to rain and boy did it rain, sheets of water were flooding down off the massive cliffs above us and we all got thoroughly drenched. A hurried exit was made by all, back around to the Goat House cave for lunch. Once we got down off the mountain, the weather cleared enough for us to head further down the road to the Little Island. As we approached the end of the road, we saw an abundance of Hypolepis elegans on the roadside and then to our amazement a Woodhen wandered out of the brush onto the road in front of us, followed by more. Only four years ago the Lord Howe Island Woodhen Tricholimnas sylvestris was regarded as one of the world's rarest birds, and here we were with three of them eating out of our hands, while the cameras clicked away.

The following morning was fine and we were advised by the locals to get out and enjoy ourselves, while we still could, as a cyclone was passing over the island. Conditions were fine as we were in the eye of the cyclone, so we all headed for the North Bay with our barbecue lunch.

The climb over the north ridge was steep, but very scenic with ferns and palms everywhere and an occasional Banyon Tree Ficus columnis. On reaching the picnic area, we set up the fire and then made the short walk through to the Gulch and back again. After lunch a few of us decided to climb up to Phillip Point, but after making our way through to the beach, we decided to turn back as the wind was becoming quite strong and the sky looked like a large whirlpool. By the time we made it back over the ridge to the Old Settlement Beach, the tail of the cyclone was passing over with very strong wind but no rain, so we were still able to get about.

By Thursday it was all gone and for the fittest of us, this was the big day we were to climb Mount Gower, all 875m (2,870ft) of it. We met our guide at the bottom end of the road south and we were on our way. The first of the climb was very steep, up onto the lower slopes of Mount Lidgebird and then we made our way around a long narrow ledge known to the locals as the "Lower Road" and into Erskine Valley for a short rest. After leaving the valley, it was climbing all the way, sometimes on all fours, up onto the saddle and then up to the "Getting Up Place" which was so steep we would not have made it without ropes. About the "Getting Up Place", the ferns began, in addition to most of the lowland species, we saw the Strap Water Fern Blechnum patersonii, the Fragrant Fern Microsorium scandens and several large Tassel Ferns Lycopodium myrtifolium.

The higher we climbed the more ferns we saw, Cyathea howeana was common and so was the Big Mountain Palm Hedyscepe canterburyana. As we approached the summit, we saw a most attractive Climbing Fern Blechnum sp. aff. oceanicum with fronds up to one metre long and a thick scaly rhizome. Blechnum fullagari was also common in the very wet areas and there were also occasional plants of the Transparent Fern Leptopteris moorei.

Once we reached the summit it was like a fairyland, with filmy ferns, mosses and brightly-coloured algae and lichens everywhere. The Mooreii Palm Lepidorrhachis mooreana was common, together with the fourth species of treefern Cyathea brevipinnae. The filmy ferns were Callistiopteris baueriana, Cephalomanes atrovirens, Hymenophyllum moorei and H. multifidum.

We had our lunch on a small grassy slope on the summit, which had excellent views back over the rest of the island, and again we fed the local Woodhens. Our hike back down the mountain was much quicker than the climb up and on reaching the beach again, we thanked our guide and headed back home.

While we climbed the mountain, other members of our party, took advantage of the fine weather and took a scenic boat tour around the island and then viewed the coral reef in a glass-bottom boat. Another attraction on the island was Neds Beach where you can wade out into the shallows at low tide and feed the fish.

Little Island is another interesting place, the lower western slopes of Mount Lidgbird are all covered with large boulders, which are the home of tens of thousands of large Elkhorn Ferns. In places the elks were so thick, it was difficult to push our way through them. The Mares Tail Asplenium polyodon and the Skeleton Fork Fern Psilotum nudum were also common.

On the last morning, Barry White found a plant of the rare <u>Marattia salicina</u> sub. sp. (<u>M. fraxinea</u> sub sp. <u>howeana</u>) but unfortunately he was on his own and we never saw it, although we did see one in a private garden. Another extremely rare fern we were fortunate to see was <u>Asplenium howeanum</u> which was in a private house and similar in appearance to compact forms of <u>A. terrestre</u>.

The week was over all too quickly and it was time to leave this fern paradise, for home, with fond memories and a few souvenirs.

CHRIS GOUDEY

SPECIAL EFFORT FOR RIPPON LEA

The committee have given me their approval to run a special raffle over a period of two months to raise funds to purchase a number of large uncommon treeferns to donate to Rippon Lea for planting in the fernery.

Tickets will be on sale at the July and August meetings and the prizes will be drawn at the August meeting.

I have donated eight very special ferns, which are rare in cultivation in this country. They are as follows:

Adiantum tenerum cv. Bessoniae (a new introduction)

Adiantum henslovianum (a new introduction)

Adiantum venustum (a new introduction)

Sadleria souletiana (Hawaii, rare)

Sadleria pallida (Hawaii, a new introduction)

Bolbitis simplicior (Philippines, very rare, most attractive)

Drynaria rigidula cv. Whitii (large plant in a 20cm (8") pot)

Pyrrosia lingua cv. Kujaku (large plant, quite valuable)

We hope to raise about \$200.00 which will enable us to buy large plants (at a discount price) of <u>Cythea marcescens</u>, <u>C. cunninghamii</u>, <u>C. medullaris</u>, <u>C. australis</u> subsp. <u>norfolkiensis</u> and <u>Dicksonia squarrosa</u>.

Tickets will be available at 50 cents each, at the July and August meetings, country and interstate members are requested to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope together with the correct amount to: Mr. C. Goudey, R.M.B. 1175, Cozens Road, Lara, Vic., 3212, to arrive before the 8th August, 1985.

The Fern Society of Victoria wishes to extend a very warm welcome to those people who have joined our ranks over the past few months.

Mr. & Mrs. L.W. Hubbard, 20-22 Gold Memorial Road, Warrandyte 3113 Ian F. Morrison, 788 Elgar Road, Doncaster 3108 Nancy B. Paterson, 229 Belmore Road, North Balwyn 3104 Dr. Terry Turney, 163 Manning Road, East Malvern Gregory Young, P.O. Boc 220, South Yarra 3141 John C. Hodges, 15 Erica Court, Blackburn North 3130 Noel Jeffery, 17 Euroka Street, Chadstone Ms. Helene Hodgskiss, 15 George Street, Ashwood 3147 William H. Beck, 182 Inkerman Street, St. Kilda Ken Blanshard, 26 Ulupna Road, Ormond 3163 R.B. & Y.M. Steen, 5 Ophir Road, Mt. Waverley 3149 Mr. K.D. & Mrs. D.A. McDonald, 14 Dockery Street, Seymour 3660 Mrs. R. Jennings, P.O. Box 552, Portland 3305 Mrs. L. Hocking, 27 Rosemary Road, Beaumaris 3193 Barry F. Hubbard, 38 Bushman Street, Parkes 2870 Mr. John Franklin & Mrs. Thelma Grace Rogers, R.M.B. 2160 Livingstone Road, Ruby via Korumburra 3953 Lynn Ressom, P.O. Box 81, Beechworth 3747 Mr. Jay W. Beswick, 194 Seminary Street, Berea Ohio 44017 U.S.A. Ivan Raymond Maloney, P.O. Box 18, Harwood 2465 Jenny Newman, 100 Studley Road, Heidelberg Robert Harper, 18 St. Phillips Street, Abbotsford Mrs. Patricia O'Connell, 16 Reynolds Parade, Pascoe Vale South 3044 Mr. J.A. Seltin, 45 Jenner Street, South Blackburn 3130 Mrs. P.A. Edwards, RMB 6045, Colac 3249 Mrs. Heather Simpson, 44 Bridge Street, Hampton 3188 Mr. Ken Goulter, RMB 6045, Colac 3249 Beauty Spot Nursery, Marysville 3779 Kelp Commodities, P.O. Box 302, Bayswater 3153 John Beattie, 3 Power Avenue, Toorak 3142 Norma's Fernery, Carboor, RMB 1340, Milawa 3678 Mrs. Frank Skula, 130 N.W. 192 Street, Miama, Florida, 33169 Joy Wiebenga, 75 Rutland Avenue, Mt. Eliza 3930 Priscilla Argent, 1 Ferndale Avenue, East Blaxland 2774 Barry F. Hubbard, 38 Bushman Street, Parkes 2870 R.L. & T. Moon, P.M.B. Agricultural Research Institute, Wagga Wagga 2650 Arthur & Carol Stroud, Barrier Reef Nursery, Bruce Highway, Deeral 4861 Craig Gye, 58 Victoria Street, Sandringham 3189 Heather Croxon, 58 Victoria Street, Sandringham 3189 Raymond R. Sodomka, 7824 Normal Avenue, La Mesa Ca. 92041 U.S.A. Mrs. Renee Sheils, 16 Doncaster Road, North Balwyn Mr. Robert Dodson, Bessie Creek Road, Nar Nar Goon North 3812 Mr. Otto Binder, 21 Damon Road, Mt. Waverley 3149

Annual Subscription Rates

Singles: \$12.00 Family: \$15.00 Pensioner - Single: \$8.00 Pensioner - Married: \$10.00

DIARY DATES

Thursday July 11th Geoff Connellan

"Controlling the Environment"

Thursday Annual General Meeting August 8th Slides of Lord Howe Isl Slides of Lord Howe Island/

Otways trips

Burnley Horticultural College Hall, Swan Street, Burnley, 8.00 p.m.

NOTE: In the event of a power strike on the evening of any meeting, we regret that the meeting must be cancelled.

BUYERS' GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIES

VICTORIA

ALLGOOD PLANTS & FERNS Main Road, Emerald, Victoria Closed Mondays A.H. (059) 68 4858 Retail

"FERN GLEN" Garfield North, Victoria Ferns - Wholesale & Retail Visitors welcome Phone: (056) 29 2375

BEASLEY'S NURSERY 195 Warrandyte Road Doncaster East Phone: (03) 844 3335

COOL WATERS FERN NURSERY (Wholesale Propagators) Beech Forest 3237 Phone: (052) 35 9250 Specializing in cool climate native ferns.

R. & M. FLETCHERS FERN NURSERY 62 Walker Road, Seville, 3139 Phone: (059) 64 4680 (look for sign on Warburton Highway 300m east of Seville Shopping Centre) (Closed Tuesdays except Public Holidays)

NEW SOUTH WALES

FERN NURSERY 6 Nelson Street. Thornleigh 2120 Wholesale & Retail Phone: (02) 84 2684

MARLEY'S FERNS 5 Seaview Street Mt. Kuring-gai 2080 Phone: (02) 457 9168

FERN NURSERY 108 King Street Shortland 2307 Phone: (049) 51 1445 Retail

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