

THE
TEA SOCIETY

OF
VICTORIA
inc.

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NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seventh Annual General Meeting:

Despite a cold and wet night 110 members attended. Our new Committee of Management was elected and retiring members were:- Chris Goudey, Bill Taylor, Bernice Hale, Bernadette Blastock, Bernard Coleman and Keith Stubbs. We thank these members for their excellent contributions and hope they will remain active members of the Society.

DOUG THOMAS

Doug proved to be a superb president, his talents, vast knowledge, and methodical approach instilled confidence into our Committee. He was always ready with a word of encouragement and a sincere thank you for a job completed. Doug's wife Ella capably assisted our committee during Doug's term as president and I'm sure all committee members agree her suppers were a delight. To Doug and Ella we say a sincere thank you and well done.

NEW COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

Immediate past President.	Doug Thomas	and Members
Vice Presidents	John Oliver	Kath Brown
	Ian Broughton	Margaret Radley
Secretary	Derek Griffiths	Robert Lee
Minute Secretary	David Radford	Peter Goschnick
Treasurer	Albert Ward	
Membership Secretary	Jean Trudgeon	

A very warm welcome to our new members, we hope they will enjoy the coming year and gain much from the fellowship.

RIPPONLEA:

Oliver Frost of Ripponlea thanked our society for its support in restocking their fernery. He said he was amazed at the response in both numbers and quality of the ferns donated by members: Also the success of Chris Goudey's Special Effort to raise money to buy large rare specimen ferns. (results reported later in newsletter).

5

SEPTEMBER 12TH MEETING

A TALK BY RAY EDWARDS. AN EXPERT
ON SPORE PROPAGATION. A VERY INTERESTING
EVENING IS ASSURED.

AUGUST MEETING:

Chris Goudey entertained us with a screening of members slides of the Otways trip and Lord Howe Island excursion. Chris described the many ferns discovered, also humorous and exciting moments in excellent detail. I'm sure all present are eagerly awaiting the next such event.

THE COMING YEAR:

May this year prove to be not only a good year for all fern growers but one our society can say we have grown in friendship and understanding.

Your President
KEITH HUTCHINSON.

MELBOURNE WILDFLOWER SHOW 10-11 AUGUST:

The Maroondah S.G.A.P. group held their annual wildflower show August 10th and 11th, to which the fern society was invited to stage a display.

The weekend was a great success as some 6,000 people attended, I think 90% must have asked questions of those who manned the display (Alan Bone, John (new member), Doug and Ella Thomas). Their interest in ferns is quite amazing, young and old alike which is very pleasing.

I am sure the society will benefit with an influx of new members in the near future as a result.

I would like to thank those who loaned their ferns and assistance in setting up to make their display a great spectacle, and a success. There were many favourable comments, thanks to (Keith Crellin, Albert Jenkins, Doug and Ella, Ian Broughton and Bob Fletcher.

On Sunday, our spore bank assistant brought spore in for sale and it was quite amazing the interest shown by many people who wanted to grow from spore, as was shown by the amount of spore sold, thank you \$75.00 (Joel Machar).

A few members brought plants along for sale and it was surprising the knowledge and interest the public showed as they selected purchased ferns of their fancy. The result showed in the fact of the society was \$236.00 better off. We also sold another 25 fern journals, signed up two new members, the society had a very good weekend. Swelling the bank by a total of \$381.00.

I would also like to personally thank those who came along and helped on Sunday evening to demolish and load the members ferns with great efficiency, thanks to (Keith and Elaine Crellin, Bob and Lenor Lee).

The sale could not have functioned without Joan Taylor and Ian Broughton who put in two full days selling, thankyou.

Great effort all round.

Bill Taylor.

August Meeting Report

Chris Goudey organised and led two Fern Society excursions during the year. At the August meeting he screened and narrated an exhibition of colour slides which described highlights of those excursions.

The first excursion was held in the Otway Ranges, Western Victoria on the weekend of 17th and 18th November last.

A fifty passenger bus and driver were commissioned for the trip from Melbourne and later to the most beautiful areas of the Otways.

Gray river area, Turton's Track, Mait's Rest, Melba Gully and Triplet Falls, were all visited and well described by the excellent colour slides. In these areas outstanding specimens of native ferns were seen. Lacey ground fern, Rainbow fern, Mother Shield, Shiny Shield, Sickle fern and Finger Fern were prominent. Several photographs of developing fern croziers were shown which highlighted the colour of the newly emerging life. The natural hybrid tree fern, Cyathea Marcesens was also shown.

Two nurseries were visited: Owen McCall's at Apollo Bay and to Ray Edwards' fern nursery at Forrest. Rays nursery is unique in that it is built into an excavation in a hillside.

It was obvious that this weekend excursion was an outstanding success and thoroughly enjoyed by those who took it.

During May, 1985 a second excursion of one week took twenty of our members to Lord Howe Island, 450 miles north east of Sydney.

To reach the island our members travelled from Melbourne to Sydney by coach. They stayed overnight in Sydney and the next day two chartered light planes flew them out over the Tasman Sea to Lord Howe Island.

Transport to the Island wasn't always as easy as that. Until the airstrip was laid down, the journey could be taken by "slow boat" only.

Lord Howe Island was discovered by Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball of H.M.S. "Supply" in 1788. The first settlers were New Zealanders who were keen to set up a whaling station there. When this venture failed, the settlers who remained on the island turned their attention to cultivation and introduced poultry, pigs and goats.

The pigs and goats had a disastrous effect on the endemic populations of gullimales (large white pigeons) woodhens and parrots. Only the woodhen has survived this intrusion.

Chris said that the island is densely covered with vegetation including beautiful palms of the Howea (Kentia) genus, native fig trees, a few species of hardwoods and of course, an abundance of ferns.

One of the earliest industry's on the island was the harvesting of the Howea palm seeds which were then marketed in Australia and overseas.

Two mountain peaks were prominent in the photographs. Mount Lidgbird 2504 feet and Mount Gower 2840 feet dominate the landscape and provide the habitats for the large fern population. Another interesting sight is the occurrence of a huge pinnacle of rock which rises out of the sea 1816 feet and is seen ten miles south east of Lord Howe. It is named Ball's Pyramid.

The photographs described beach scenes, rock formations and what appeared to be a nerve-racking climb around the precipitous face of one of the mountains. Adventurers appeared to have only a flimsy looking rope as a means of security.

We saw photographs too of excellent specimens of filmy ferns, club mosses (tassel fern) elkhorn ferns and several species of tree fern. Asplenium Milnei and Hypolepis Elegans were outstanding.

It was quite obvious from the interest shown and comments made during the screening that "a good time was had by all".

Albert Jenkins moved a vote of thanks to Chris and his fellow photographers for their work. He praised all for the fine standard of the photographs. Albert's remarks were supported by an appreciative audience.

Historical Ref: "The Australian Encyclopedia".

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SPECIAL EFFORT FOR RIPPONLEA.

The tickets were drawn at the August meeting for the Special Effort to raise money to purchase ferns for the Ripponlea Fernery.

The results were as follows:-

First Prize - Drynaria rigidula cv. Whitei went to Mr. Joel Macher

Second Prize - Pyrrosia lingua cv. Kujaka went to Mr. Ron Burnett
(Nhill)

Third Prize - a white ticket with four aqua-blue K's and the number 72 on it, was not collected. If you have it please forward your ticket to me at the September meeting and collect your prize.

Fourth Prize - Adiantum venustum went to Mr. Derek Griffith

Fifth Prize - Adiantum tenerum cv. Bessonnia went to Mr. Ron Burnett
(Nhill)

Sixth Prize - Adiantum henslovianum went to Mrs. N. Frost
(Mt. Gambier)

Seventh Prize - Sadleria pallida - went to Mrs. Alice Whitecross.

Eighth Prize - Sadleria souletiana went to Mrs. Edna Fuhrmeister.

Ninth Prize - a large green ceramic turtle plant container went to Mr. Colin Ridout (Hackett, A.C.T.)

The total amount raised was \$360.00 which is more than enough to purchase the treeferns, we are seeking for Ripponlea. We will use the balance, to buy additional ferns for the project.

My thanks to Jean Trudgeon for the lovely green ceramic turtle she kindly donated for the raffle. Thanks also for the donations and the fantastic response by everyone to this most worthy appeal, not only through the raffle but for all the ferns donated.

Finally, members who were unable to bring their ferns to the August meeting for Ripponlea, please bring them to the September meeting.

Chris Goudey.

Mr. R. J. Pattison
P.O. Box 567,
Rockdale South,
QUEENSLAND. 4123

FOR SALE

wishes to purchase or swap
for the following species:
Asplenium terreste
Asplenium parvum
Asplenium polyodon-bipinnatifid
form

Blechnum wurunuran
Humata pectinata
Hypolepsis australis

AZALEAS All sizes 4"-10"

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Mount Waverley. 3149
Telephone: 277 4310

ALSO RHODODENDRONS, CAMELLIAS
AND FERNS.

Annual Report of the Committee of Management, 1984/85.

Introduction.

The Fern Society has completed another successful year. Success came in maintaining record Membership, in the provision of capable speakers and topics at general meetings, in the organizing of excursions, in the staging of fern exhibitions, in the monthly publication of the Society Newsletter, in the maintenance of all services to Members and in our involvement, although incomplete at this time, in the replanting of the Ripponlea fern house.

The outgoing Committee has administered the affairs of the Society responsibly and capably. It had to deal with two crisis situations during the year.

1. At very short notice, a temporary loss of Burnley College Hall as a meeting place. Garden Week, March 1985.
2. A temporary money crisis in which the Society's expenditure of funds exceeded income.

To cope with the first crisis the Committee transferred the March general meeting to the National Herbarium and changed the meeting date in consequence.

In addition, a sub-committee was set up to investigate a move to another meeting place. Twenty one halls were checked in the Richmond and inner eastern areas but none provided the space, facilities, parking and accessibility to the extent of the present venue.

We ate humble pie and decided to remain at Burnley.

With the money drain situation, a finance sub-committee was set up to investigate the major areas of expenditure. On the recommendation of this sub-committee decisions were made to cut costs by reducing the number of pages of the monthly newsletter, to conduct committee meetings in private homes, to dispense with the services of interstate Guest Speakers, to print back numbers of the newsletter at current printing costs to the enquirer and to defer publication of a second Society Fern Journal.

The cost of providing the newsletter is by far the most expensive of our outlays. The measures are taking effect but will need close monitoring by the incoming Committee.

Activities.

Excursions.

1. 1 November, 1984: A weekend excursion to the Otway Ranges, Western Victoria. Fifty four members attended.
2. May, 1985: Seven day tour to Lord Howe Island. Twenty members took the tour.
Chris Goudey organized and led both tours. We thank Chris for this work.

Fern Exhibitions.

- 2.1 September, 1984. Melbourne Royal Show. Our exhibit was awarded second prize in its' section.

2.2 February, 1985. The Fellowes Group flower show in the National Herbarium.

2.3 March, 1985. The Annual Fern Show at the National Herbarium.

Notes: Robert Lee led the Show sub-committee in organising the Annual Fern Show whilst Bill Taylor set up the other exhibitions. In each of these public displays the leaders were assisted by hard working and highly valued volunteers.

Thank you to all who so ably participated.

3. General Meetings.

Bernadette Blastock has been responsible for the programme of speakers this year. She has provided an excellent variety of topics and has secured the services of well informed and capable speakers. As a result, meeting attendances have been excellent.

A tradition has developed at our Christmas meetings which produces our Fern Forum Panel, a remarkably successful fountain of knowledge. Panel Members in 1984 were: Chris Goudey, Keith Hutchinson, Keith Stubbs, Barry Stagoll and Richard Hartland.

Thankyou very much speakers and Forum Members.

4. Services to Members.

4.1 Library- David Radford and Sue Hinchen.

4.2 Fern Table - Chris Goudey.

4.3 Fern Sales - Member Vendors.

4.4 Book Sales - Lorraine Goudey.

4.5 Maxicrop Sales - Albert Jenkins.

4.6 Excursions - Chris Goudey.

4.7 Spore Bank - Bill Bright - Joel Macher.

4.8 Supper - Beth Ward and Jan Seibel.

At Herbarium - Jean Boucher and Thelma Knight, Evonne Goudey.

4.9 Special Effort Competition - Margaret Radley, Joy Hormon, Joan McConchie and Kath Brown.

4.10 Sterilized African Violet Mix - Bill Taylor.

4.11 Property Steward - John Oliver.

4.12 Public Officer (Incorporation) - Keith Stubbs.

Thankyou very much Members for seeing to it that these services are maintained.

5. The Officers.

5.1 The Committee of Management met eleven times. The attendances of individual Members was highly satisfactory throughout.

The Society was served by the following Members:

Bernadette Blastock	Margaret Radley
Ian Broughton	Keith Stubbs
Kath Brown	Bill Taylor
Chris Goudey	Doug Thomas
Bernice Hale	Jean Trudgeon
Robert Lee	Albert Ward
John Oliver	

Each of these members contributed well to the work of the

Committee. Committee meetings have been harmonious throughout the year, all deliberations were fully discussed and decisions reached through consensus.

Bernadette Blastock, Bernice Hale, Keith Stubbs and Bill Taylor will not be seeking re-election.

All have been loyal and industrious in their work for the Society. We thank them for their joint contributions and wish them every success in the future.

We accord sincere thanks also to the remaining members of this Committee, all of whom have accepted nominations to continue.

5.2 The Secretary.

Bernadette Blastock has been effective as the Society's Secretary. She has done extremely well in handling the Society's correspondence and we congratulate her for her planning and implementation of the Guest Speaker programme.

5.3 Assistant Secretary.

The work of Assistant Secretary has been well handled by Bernice Hale. Bernice has attended to the recording, preparation and presentation of minutes to the Committee.

Thankyou Bernice, your work is much appreciated.

5.4 Treasurer.

Jean Trudgeon continues to carry out her duties as Treasurer with care and thoroughness. She deserves our highest praise and we thank her for another year of dedicated service.

Jean also keeps our Membership lists and records.

5.5 Newsletter.

The fact that the Society continues to enjoy an excellent country and interstate membership is due to the quality and integrity of the monthly Newsletter. The Newsletter is the life-line which links these members with our Administration. At the same time, city members are also well served by the publication.

The Member who manages to achieve all this year after year is our Editor, Keith Hutchinson to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Thankyou Keith.

5.6 Show Sub-Committee.

An enormous amount of work is done by show sub-committee members in planning, preparing and staging the Society's Fern Show.

The Fern Show is the outstanding event in our activities each year. It continues to put the Society in the public spotlight and to greatly assist finances.

To Robert Lee and his Members we offer a humble thankyou.

6. Members.

Thankyou Members for your continuing interest in the activities

of the Society. Thankyou for responding so marvellously to calls for special involvement from time to time, and most importantly thank you for your friendship.

7. Conclusion.

The Fern Society of Victoria is in good shape. So much so that I confidently predict further growth in the future and an expansion of fern education.

DOUG THOMAS
(for the Committee of Management)

"PLEASE NOTE:- ALL OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIPS NOW \$20.00 (AUST.) "

This recipe was taken from Soyer's Standard Cookery. A Complete Guide to the Art of Cooking by Nicolas Soyer, 3 York Street, Covent Garden, London 1912.

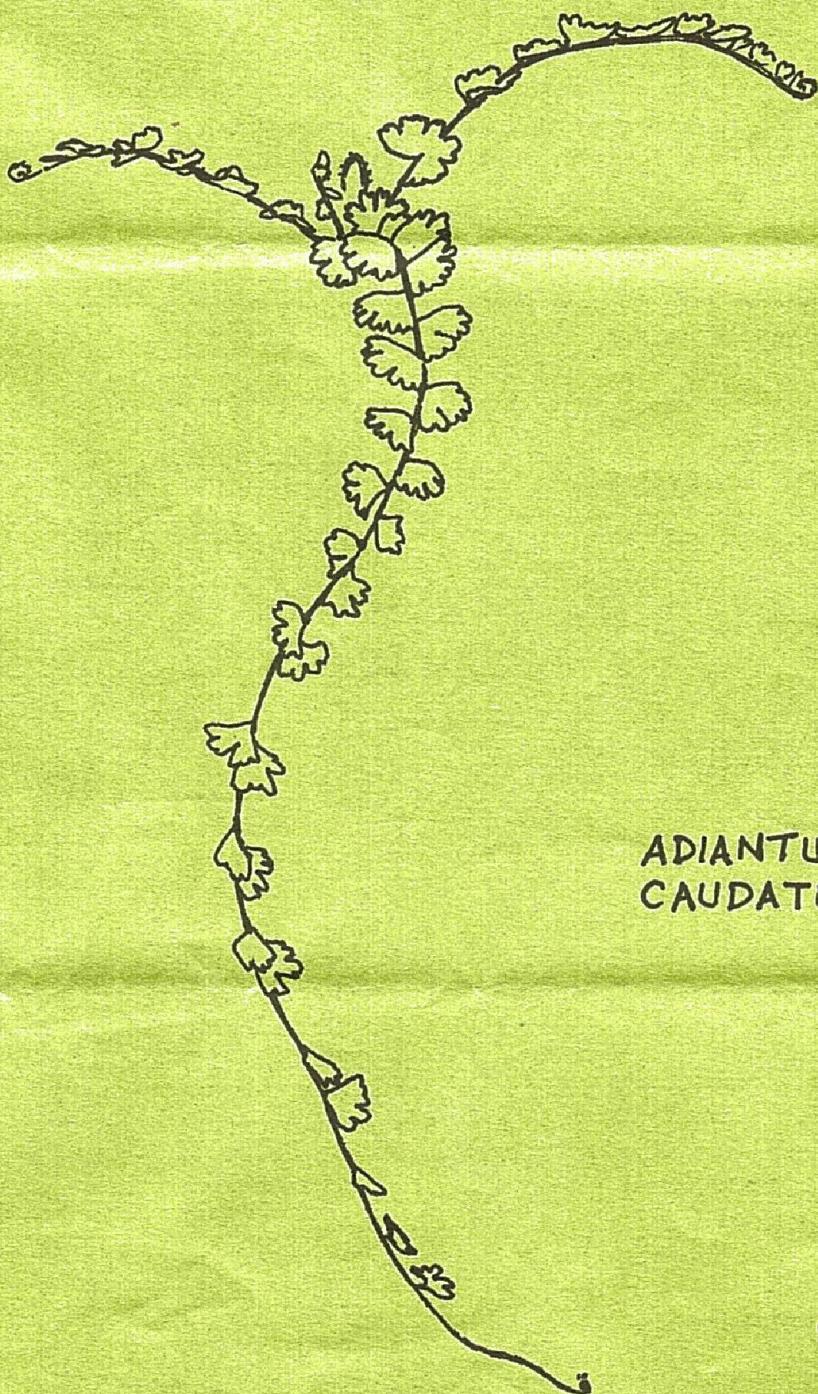
CAPILLAIRE WATER

Place one pound of fresh, well-cleaned maidenhair fern - roots and all - in a vessel with just sufficient boiling water to cover it. Let it remain in a warm place for ten hours, after which strain and add sugar to taste, usually one pound to each pint. Now stir in two tablespoonsfuls of orange-flower water and let the syrup simmer for five minutes. Then strain and bottle for use.

This syrup is taken with water, either by itself or with other syrups.

* * * * *

Adiantum caudatum (trailing maidenhair fern as shown on page 11) a tender fern native to tropical regions. It occurs in limestone areas and prefers good drainage. Bulbils form on the tips of mature fronds and if pegged down soon take root to form a new plant. The pendulous habit of this fern makes it ideal for hanging baskets.



ADIANTUM
CAUDATUM

8d8
4/85

DIARY DATES

Thursday
September 12th

Guest Speaker:
Ray Edwards

Thursday
October 10th

Chris Gouday
"Maidenhairs".

Burnley Horticultural College Hall, Swan Street,
Burnley, 8.00 pm.

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

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