

THE
FERA SOCIETY



OF
VICTORIA
INC.

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NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

It was pleasing to see one hundred and twenty members attending our October meeting to enjoy the slide presentation by Chris Goudey of the many unusual and spectacular Maiden hair ferns from around the world.

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome Alison and Keith Pither also Bill Goodwin.

NORTH VICTORIAN EXCURSION.

We hope to proceed with this trip early May, 1986 travelling to Wangaratta, Bright and Carbour stopping overnight at Noonameena Lodge. All meals, bus fare and accommodation approximately \$50.00.



NOVEMBER MEETING - BARRY STAGOLL RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO THE U.K. AND WILL TELL OF HIS VISIT TO THE KEW GARDENS TO VIEW THEIR FERN COLLECTION.

RIPPONLEA

I would like to thank Marion Kennedy for her donation of \$10.00 and also the anonymous donation of \$105.00.

QUESTIONNAIRE

So far only ten have been returned. Please give this some thought so that we may make 1986 a memorable year for our society.

ADVANCE NOTICE - DECEMBER MEETING

We will again be having our fern forum, special effort hamper, supper and door prize. The door prize will be a copy of Chris Goudey's new book on Maidenhair ferns valued at \$49.95 (\$36.00 to Society members).

kindest Regards,
 Keith Hutchinson.

Doug and Ella Thomas have been interested in growing ferns for thirty years. They became interested in the 1950's when it seemed no-one else cared.

Ferns could not be bought at plant nurseries in Victoria and had to be ordered from Tom Longton's fern nursery at Hervey Bay, Queensland.

Cultivation methods were of the trial and error type until 1971 when Doug and Ella took a holiday trip to Queensland. On the way, they visited sub-tropical rainforests, mostly in National Parks. In these glorious rainforests they began to study native species at first hand, learning that some ferns grow in trees, some on rocks, some in the soil. Among the basics they learned about leaf mould and its importance to the health and development of ferns. They came home from that holiday firmly resolved to create their own rain forest in the back garden.

Nowadays, that home grown rainforest is a reality and functioning so well that a fine collection of native and exotic ferns thrive in it.



In addition, Doug and Ella have two fern houses. One house has no heat and is used mostly for hanging basket culture; the other is smaller and is mildly heated. A wide range of glasshouse ferns are grown in this environment.

Doug and Ella apply all the facets of fern growing to their enterprise. Ferns are raised from spore, bulbils rhizomes and division. They claim that the best thing to help enthusiasts in this decade has been the formation of the Victorian Fern Society.

Our Special Effort Winners were:-

1. Steve Gamble
2. Bob Lee
3. Lyn Kaiser
4. Mrs. R. Lee
5. Mac Gregory
6. Bernadette Blastock
7. Maureen Verhagen
8. Gladys Gregory

Photo:-

Barry Stagoll our November speaker sharing fern knowledge with Ella and Doug Thomas.

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATEDBALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1985.Members Funds

Assets transferred from The Fern Society of Victoria	5,145.48
<u>Add</u> Surplus for the year	<u>2,792.36</u>
	<u>\$7,937.84</u>
	=====

Represented By:-Current Assets

Cash at Bank	2,320.34
Cash on Deposit - Investment Account	4,347.50
Cash on Hand	<u>100.00</u>
	<u>6,767.84</u>

Fixed Assets

Library	560.00	
Plant & Equipment	<u>610.00</u>	<u>1,170.00</u>
		<u>\$7,937.84</u>
		=====

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The attached statements are drawn up to show the financial position of The Fern Society of Victoria Incorporated according to the information at my disposal and as shown by the books of accounts and vouchers of the society.

..... *H.R. Ward* H.R. Ward A.C.A. *27th Sept '85* Dated

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1985.

Receipts

Members' Subscriptions	5,910.03	
Spore Sales	465.05	
Plant Sales	11,966.05	
Interest	162.83	
Special Effort	445.50	
Advertising	270.00	
Commission	13.34	
Show Prize	25.00	
Tea Money	28.50	
Door Takings - Show	1,508.00	
	<u>20,794.30</u>	
Funds transferred from Fern Society of Victoria	3,875.48	24,669.78

Payments

Newsletter	5,649.64	
Postages	1,266.77	
Advertising	-	
Bank Charges	141.18	
Electricity	52.40	
Hall Hire	918.00	
Honorarium	300.00	
Presentation	95.00	
Petty Cash	85.81	
Purchases	8,229.58	
Printing	290.00	
Telephone	32.54	
Show Expenses	605.30	
Subscriptions	15.00	
Sundry Expenses	320.72	
	<u>18,001.94</u>	
<u>Funds on Hand as at 30th June, 1985.</u>		<u>\$6,667.84</u> =====

SALT DAMAGE IN CONTAINER PLANTS - BY MADELON LANE (Senior Research Extension Officer at the Keith Turnbull Institute)

High concentration of soluble salts in water or potting mixes may cause serious problems in the nursery. Plant symptoms of salt damage are usually indications of root damage and are often hard to visually differentiate from fungal soil diseases. Symptoms of salt damage include brown, stunted roots; burning and die-back of leaves and young growth; and slow or no growth. Sometimes salt build-up can be seen around pot drainage holes. Seedlings and newly struck cuttings are particularly vulnerable to salt damage. Seed germination can be delayed and reduced by salinity.

Situations in which salt damage may occur include:

1. Use of high rates of fertilisers, especially if these are readily soluble (for example ammonium nitrate). High rates of fertiliser can occur in individual pots if mixing of fertilisers through the potting mix is uneven. Excessive use of liquid fertilisers, or top dressings, can also cause salt damage.
2. If container plants dry out too much between waterings the water content of the mix decreases and salt concentration increases.
3. Steam sterilisation of potting mixes containing slow release fertilisers can trigger rapid release of nutrients. Periods of very hot weather can also increase release rates of nutrients from slow release fertilisers, especially top dressings exposed to high temperatures.
4. Storage of potting mixes with slow release fertilisers incorporated can result in elevated salt levels. If the potting mix is moist, composting will occur causing a rapid rise in temperature which destroys encapsulated fertilisers such as Osmocote and Nutricote. This results in a rapid rise in salt levels. Plants should not be potted into mixes that have been stored containing slow release fertilisers.
5. Use of saline potting materials, for example fresh mushroom compost, poppy straw, sedge peats.
6. Use of saline irrigation water. All irrigation waters contain some dissolved salts. Surface or underground waters in Australia most commonly contain sodium chloride (common salt) but other salts are also present, for example calcium or magnesium sulphates and carbonates. Saline dam water can be a problem especially if the dam collects runoff from the nursery or during periods of prolonged drought.

Any salts which dissolve in water can cause a salinity problem. Fertilisers are chemical salts, some of which are readily water soluble. Most soluble salts of chlorides, nitrates and sulphates contribute to the salt effect, some more than others. Lime and dolomite, which mainly consist of sparingly soluble carbonates, do not contribute significantly to the salt effect.

Plants may also be damaged by accumulation of excessive salt on the leaves. Salts are absorbed directly through the leaves and can cause leaf burn. This problem can occur when sprinkling with saline water. In this situation frequent, light sprinkling should be avoided to prevent a build-up of salts on the leaf surface. Sufficient water should be applied to wash excess salts off the leaves. Salt spray problems can occur near the ocean.

Since salts are soluble they are readily leached from the container mix by heavy watering. This treatment provides the only real means of saving salt-affected plants (apart from repotting into a low salt potting mix). Salt damaged plants may be slow to recover, if they recover at all.

SALT DAMAGE IN CONTAINER PLANTS (CONTD)

Potting media that have been steam sterilised at temperatures above 60°C after addition of slow release fertilisers should be watered thoroughly immediately after potting.

To minimise fertiliser salinity problems:

- * don't apply high concentrations of soluble fertiliser to try and force plant growth;
- * irrigate with larger volumes of low concentration liquid fertiliser rather than infrequently with a high concentration;
- * give plants an occasional thorough irrigation with plain water to leach out any high concentrations of salts;
- * ensure fertilisers are evenly mixed through the potting mix;

To minimise problems with saline irrigation water:

- * irrigate frequently and heavily and use an open, well drained mix;
- * avoid light spraying of the foliage with saline water;
- * attempt to keep the plant growing conditions cool and humid;
- * grow salt tolerant plants;
- * find a better quality source of water if possible.

Plants vary in their sensitivity to salt damage. An ability to survive high salt concentrations does not necessarily mean the plant will grow to its full potential. Extremely salt sensitive plants such as candytuft can be useful as indicator plants to test doubtful batches of potting mix. Unfortunately not a lot is known about the salinity tolerance of many ornamental plants.

The most common method of measuring salinity of potting mixes is to determine the electrical conductivity (EC) of a solution prepared by adding 100 mls of distilled water to 20 g of air dried soil or potting mix. This method is known as the 1:5 extract method. Direct measurements of EC can be made on irrigation water. EC measurements must always be taken before PH measurements as the electrode on a PH meter contains potassium chloride.

When a potting mix is tested for electrical conductivity (also called total soluble salts) the following interpretations of salinity readings generally apply when the 1:5 extract method has been used.

TABLE 2.

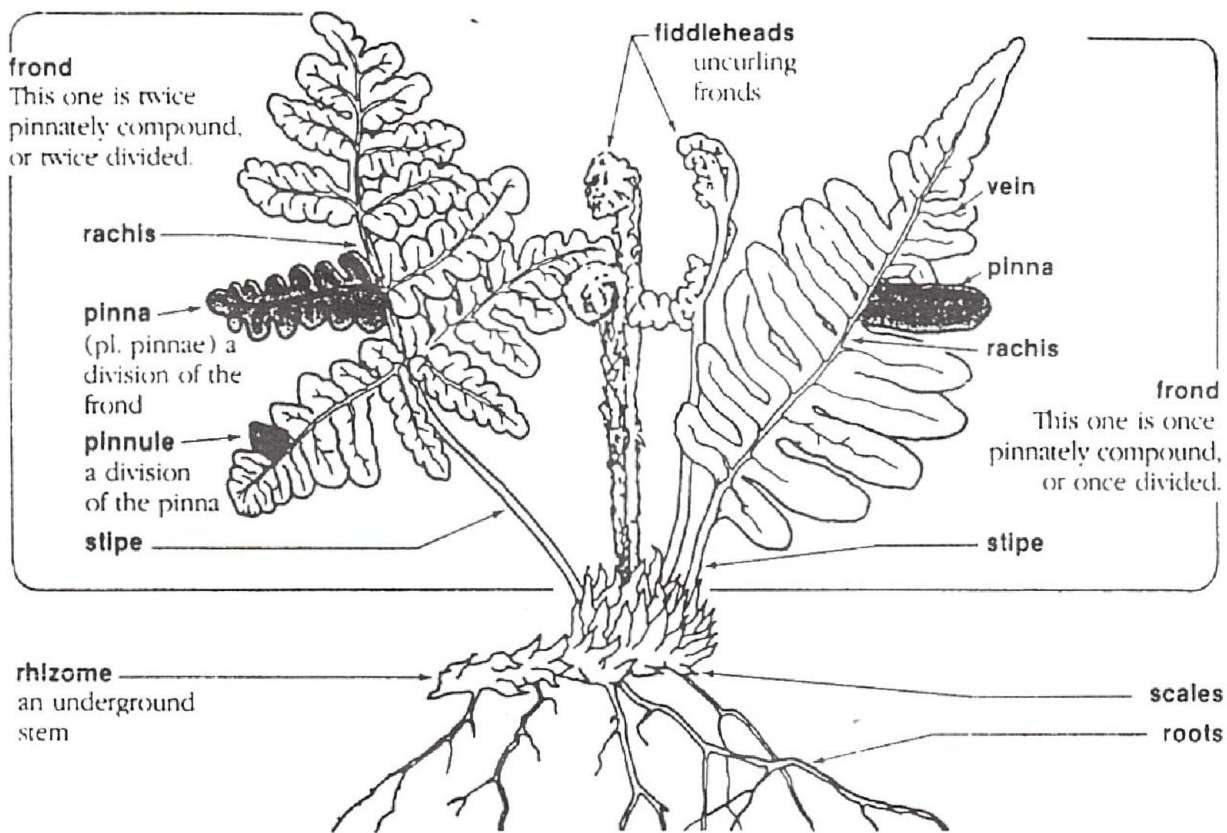
READING mmho's/cm ³	COMMENTS
Below 0.1	Very low. Plants may need fertilising.
0.1-0.3	Safe for most plants.
0.3-0.8	Usually safe. Higher values in this range may affect some species, particularly if drainage is poor.
0.8-1.0	Possible salinity depending on species, type of potting mix and drainage. Specific ion effects may be present (for example, chlorine Cl ⁻).
1.0-1.5	Plant growth likely to be affected, leaf symptoms should be visible.
Over 1.5	Too high

BEGINNERS PAGE

What are ferns? How do they differ from the common seed-bearing plants which are familiar to all of us? What are the unusual "spots" that form on the bottom-side of many fern leaves? These questions and many others are raised by the inexperienced fern grower who sees these interesting plants in their natural environment.

Ferns are for the most part land-inhabiting. They possess well formed roots, stems and leaves. They are structured like the gymnosperms (conifers etc.) and flowering plants in that they form a well-developed vascular system that serves for the conduction of water, mineral salts and foods. Although the ferns are considered to be primarily land plants, some require free water, especially during parts of their reproductive cycle.

Pictured below is a diagram showing the individual parts that make up a fern.



Australian ferns are an interesting group and embrace a considerable range of habit. They usually grow in colonies, often in mixed company but sometimes covering large areas to the exclusion of other species. As a group they prefer moist conditions and abound in temperate or tropical rainforests of high humidity. Some, however, extend into drier situations, such as open forest or cliff faces. Ferns grow in a variety of habitats, from exposed coastal crevices washed with salt spray, to mallee sandhills, to inland gorges of central Australia and to subalpine crevices covered with snows during the winter.

to be continued

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TASMANIAN FERN TOUR.

Michael Garnet - President of the Tasmanian Fern Society will conduct a nine day fern tour around Tasmania during March, 1987. Approximate cost will be \$500. A minimum of 40 members is needed - contact Chris Goudey at our November meeting with your \$10 deposit to secure your place.

CONTROL OF LIVERWORT.

Our September speaker Ray Edwards suggests you control Liverwort by using KENDOCIDE, but at only, one quarter recommended strength. DO NOT use in the vicinity of prothalli, but is safe for established sporelings.

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Telephone: 497 2822: 71 McLure Street, Thornbury. 3071

BOOK NOTICE.- PICK UP YOUR ORDERED COPY OF CHRIS' BOOK.

Chris Doudey's new book "Maidenhair Ferns in Cultivation" will be available at the November meeting. We are only buying sufficient copies to fill orders because of its cost. Retail price on publication \$49.95. (But this will rise quickly).

The Society price for members is \$36.00. A considerable saving. If you have ordered a copy please collect it at the November meeting. We can't hold books for long. If you have ordered through the mail you will be sent an invoice to cover the balance owing plus packaging and postage costs.

Any orders accepted after November will reflect the new retail price and our members price will then be \$43.00.

SPORE LIST.

Spore samples may be purchased at monthly meetings, or by sending a list of your requirements with 20 cents for each species requested plus 50 cents for packaging and postage to Mr. Joel Macher, 31 Anora Crescent, Mulgrave. 3170.

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 some species are depleted.

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

Continued overleaf . .

`*` INDICATES SPECIES IN SHORT SUPPLY
 `N` INDICATES NATIVE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES

N	ADIANTUM AETHIOPICUM(5-84)	COMMON MAIDENHAIR
N*	CAPILLUS-VENERIS(12-83)	VENUS-HAIR FERN
	CAUDATUM(3-85)	TRAILING MAIDENHAIR
N	FORMOSUM(7-84)	BLACK STEM
N*	HISPIDULUM(3-84)	ROUGH MAIDENHAIR
	PATENS(10-83)	
	PERUVIANUM(3-84)	SILVER DOLLAR
	RADDIANUM 'CRESTED MAJUS'(6-84)	
*	RADDIANUM 'FRITZ LUTH'(6-84)	
	RADDIANUM 'GRACILLIMUM'(3-84)	
	RADDIANUM 'LEGRAND MORGAN'(3-85)	
	RADDIANUM 'MICROPINNULUM'(3-85)	
*	RADDIANUM 'OCEAN WAVE'(3-84)	
*	RADDIANUM 'OLD LACE'(2-84)	
	RADDIANUM 'PACIFIC MAID'(3-85)	
*	RADDIANUM 'TRIUMPH'(10-84)	
	RADDIANUM 'VICTORIA S ELEGANS'(3-85)	
*	RADDIANUM 'WEIGANDII'(10-84)	
*	TENERUM 'GLORIOSUM GREEN'(3-84)	
	TENERUM 'PINK FERGUSSONII'(3-85)	
*	TENERUM 'PINK SLEEPING BEAUTY'(4-84)	
*	TENERUM 'SLEEPING BEAUTY'(4-84)	
*	TRAPEZIFORME 'BRASILIENSE'(3-84)	DIAMOND MAIDENHAIR
- N	SP.(AFF. WHITEI/S.E.QLD)(3-85)	
N	AMPHINEURON OPULENTUM(2-84)	
	ANEMIA MEXICANA(12-83)	FLOWERING HOLLY-FERN
	PHYLLITIDIS(?)	
- N	ARACHNIODES ARISTATA(3-85)	PRICKLY SHIELD-FERN
*	ARISTATA VARIEGATA(2-84)	
*	SIMPLICIOR(?)	
N	ASPLENIUM BULBIFERUM(NATIVE)(2-85)	MOTHER SPLEENWORT
*	DIMORPHUM(10-83)	THREE-IN-ONE FERN
N*	FLABELLIFOLIUM(3-84)	NECKLACE FERN
	ATHYRIUM FELIX-FEMINA(2-84)	LADY-FERN
N	BLECHNUM CARTILAGINEUM(12-83)	GRISTLE FERN
- N*	CARTILAGINEUM 'TROPICUM'(2-85)	GRISTLE FERN
N	CHAMBERSII(3-85)	LANCE WATER-FERN
- *	DISCOLOR(1-85)	CROWN FERN
N	FLUVIATILE(4-84)	RAY WATER-FERN
	GIBBUM(4-84)	DWARF TREE-FERN
N	INDICUM(2-85)	SWAMP WATER-FERN
N	MINUS(2-84)	SOFT WATER-FERN
N	NUDUM(1-84)	FISHBONE WATER-FERN
*	OCCIDENTALE(3-84)	HAMMOCK FERN
N*	PATERSONII(5-84)	STRAP WATER-FERN
*	REVOLUTUM(?)	
*	TABULARE(?)	
N*	VULCANICUM(4-84)	WEDGE WATER-FERN
N	WATTSII(2-85)	HARD WATER-FERN
- N	WURUNURAN(9-84)	
N	CHRISTELLA DENTATA(2-85)	BINUNG
N	PARASITICA(1-84)	
- N*	COLYSIS SAYERI(2-84)	
	CONIOGRAMME JAPONICA 'VARIEGATA'(2-85)	
*	CTENITIS SLOANEI(3-84)	FLORIDA TREEFERN
N	CYATHEA AUSTRALIS(3-85)	ROUGH TREE-FERN
	BROWNII(2-85)	
N	COOPERI(3-85)	COIN-SPOT TREE-FERN
N	COOPERI (BLACK SCALES)(3-85)	COIN-SPOT TREE-FERN
N	CUNNINGHAMII(2-84)	SLENDER TREE-FERN
	DEALBATA(2-85)	SILVER TREE-FERN
N	LEICHHARDTIANA(3-85)	PRICKLY TREE-FERN
N	MARCESCENS (CUNNINGHAMII/AUSTRALIS MIX)(3-84)	
	MEDULLARIS(2-85)	BLACK TREE-FERN

	SMITHII(4-84)	
N*	WOOLLSIANA(3-85)	
	SP.(NEW GUINEA)(3-85)	
N	CYCLOSORUS TRUNCATUS(3-84)	
	CYRTOMIUM FALCATUM(3-84)	HOLLY FERN
N	DAVALLIA PYXIDATA(3-85)	HARE'S-FOOT FERN
*	SOLIDA 'RUFFLED ORNATA'(3-84)	
N*	DENNSTAEDTIA DAVALLIOIDES(3-84)	LACY GROUND-FERN
N	DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA(2-85)	SOFT TREE-FERN
	SQUARROSA(3-84)	WHEKI
N	YOUNGIAE(S.QLD FORM)(12-84)	BRISTLY TREE-FERN
N	DIPLAZIUM AUSTRALE(3-85)	AUSTRAL LADY-FERN
N	DOODIA ASPERA(2-85)	PRICKLY RASP-FERN
N*	CAUDATA 'LAMINOSA'(1-85)	
N	MAXIMA(5-84)	
N	MEDIA(1-85)	COMMON RASP-FERN
*	DORYOPTERIS PEDATA(10-83)	HAND FERN
	DRYOPTERIS ATRATA(3-84)	SHAGGY SHIELD-FERN
*	CARTHUSIANA(2-85)	NARROW BUCKLER-FERN
	ERYTHROSORA(4-84)	AUTUMN FERN
	GYMNOSORA 'ANGUSTATA'(4-85)	
	SIEBOLDI(3-85)	
	SP.(FILIX-MAS?)(3-84)	(MALE FERN?)
*	SP-2(2-84)	
	HUMATA GRIFFITHIANA(5-84)	
N	HYPOLEPIS PUNCTATA(3-84)	DOWNY GROUND-FERN
N	LASTREOPSIS ACUMINATA(3-85)	SHINY SHIELD-FERN
N*	HISPIDA(11-84)	BRISTLY SHIELD-FERN
N	MICROSORA(10-84)	CREEPING SHIELD-FERN
N	MUNITA(10-84)	
N*	LUNATHYRIUM JAPONICUM(5-84)	JAPANESE LADY-FERN
N	LYGODIUM MICROPHYLLUM(5-84)	CLIMBING MAIDENHAIR
	MICROSORIUM COMMUTATUM(10-84)	
N	DIVERSIFOLIUM(3-85)	KANGAROO FERN
	PARKSII(3-85)	
	NEPHROLEPIS CORDIFOLIA 'PLUMOSA'(10-83)	
*	SP.(EASTERN ZIMBABWE GIANT)(?)	
N	OPHIOGLOSSUM PENDULUM(3-85)	RIBBON FERN
N	PELLAEA FALCATA(3-85)	SICKLE FERN
N	FALCATA NANA(11-83)	DWARF SICKLE-FERN
N	PARADOXA(11-83)	
	ROTUNDIFOLIA(11-84)	BUTTON FERN
*	PHYLLITIS SCOLOPENDRIUM(3-84)	HART'S-TONGUE FERN
N*	PLATYCERIUM SUPERBUM(2-84)	STAGHORN FERN
*	POLYPODIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM(4-84)	NARROW-LEAF STRAP FERN
*	AUREUM 'MANDIANUM'(6-84)	
*	FORMOSANUM(12-83)	GRUB FERN
	POLYSTICHUM ACROSTICHOIDES(3-85)	CHRISTMAS FERN
N	AUSTRALIENSE(3-85)	
N	FORMOSUM(12-83)	BROAD SHIELD-FERN
	LENTUM(3-85)	
N	PROLIFERUM(3-85)	MOTHER SHIELD-FERN
*	SETIFERUM(2-84)	SOFT SHIELD-FERN
*	TSUS-SIMENSE(4-84)	TSUS-SIMA HOLLY-FERN
N	PTERIS COMANS(2-85)	NETTED BRAKE
	CRETICA(2-85)	CRETAN BRAKE
	CRETICA 'ALBOLINEATA'(10-84)	RIBBON BRAKE
	HENDERSONII(2-84)	
	MACILENTA(4-84)	
*	MULTIFIDA(2-84)	N.Z. BRAKE
	SEMIPINNATA(2-84)	SPIDER BRAKE
N	TREMULA(2-85)	TENDER BRAKE
N	UMBROSA(10-83)	JUNGLE BRAKE
N	VITTATA(3-85)	CHINESE BRAKE
	RUMOHRA ADIANTIFORMIS(CAPE FORM)(3-85)	LEATHER FERN
N	ADIANTIFORMIS(NATIVE)(3-85)	LEATHERY SHIELD-FERN
*	SCYPHULARIA PENTAPHYLLA(4-84)	BLACK CATERPILLAR FERN
*	THELYPTERIS PATENS 'LEPIDA'(?)	
N	TODEA BARBARA(3-85)	KING FERN

D I A R Y D A T E S .

Thursday
November 14th

Barry Stagoll
Kew Gardens Fern Collection

Thursday
December 12th

Fern Forum
and Christmas meeting

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.

B U Y E R S ' G U I D E T O F E R N N U R S E R I E S .

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1 km north of Big Pineapple
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