THE JERN SOCIETY

> OF PICTORIA inc.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT.

Almost 80 members attended our October meeting and I am sure all would agree Chris Wooten gave us an excellent insight into the importance of water conservation and the use of drip watering systems.

S.G.A.P. SHOW.

This show proved to be very well organised by Ian Broughton and his team. I sincerely thank all concerned, particularly Bill and Joan Taylor, Doug and Ella Thomas, Albert Jenkins, Rod Hill, Barry and Gay Stagoll, Maureen and Dirk Verhagen, Keith and Elaine Crellin, John Hodges, Allan Bone, John Oliver and Joel Macher. Well done.

GEELONG OUTING.

Unfortunately we cannot proceed with this outing but will be visiting the ferneries of Members - Albert Jenkins, and Albert and Beth Ward.

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 16TH.

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Albert Jenkins - 11 Morwell Avenue, Watsonia.

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Albert & Beth Ward - 82 Grandview Grove, Rosanna.

4 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. picnic afternoon tea - Rosanna parklands, Lower Plenty (diagonally opposite Road, Rosanna.

Rosanna Station)

Hopefully we will be able to visit Chris Goudeys fernery during 1987.

GREETING CARDS.

Betty Duncan and Golda Isaac have had some cards printed from the front and back plates of their fern book. They are of high quality and would make excellent Christmas cards available at our November meeting.

SPECIAL EFFORT WINNERS.

1. Vivian Blacker

2. Dorothy Forte

3. Debra Cadd

4. Terry Turney

5. Elaine Crellin

6. John Hodges

7. Reg Seibel

8. Keith Crellin

9. Mick Adaway

10. Val Monkivitch

Sincere thanks to Phil Goodwin for donating several beautiful Cyathea cunninghamii for our special effort prizes.

Our November 6th executive meeting will be at 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna.

Kind Regards,

Keith Hutchinson.

NOVEMBER MEETING - THURSDAY 13TH

8.00 P.M. BURNLEY HORTICULTURAL COLLEGE

SPEAKER - MR. MICHAEL GARRET.

PRESIDENT OF THE TASMANIAN FERN SOCIETY.

SUBJECT: FERMS OF TASMANIA WITH SLIDE PRESENTATION.

A proposal for the formation of a Study Group along the lines of the S.G.A.P. Fern Study Group currently operating in Sydney was considered by the Committee last month and was unanimously supported. We hope that all members will consider joing in this enjoyable and educational activity.

The proposal by Rod Hill and Ian Broughton is set out below.

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA - STUDY GROUP.

- 1. AIMS: To promote an interest in ferns in their natural environment. To systematically study the characteristics of the various ferns genera and species in cultivation.
 - 2. FORMAT: The Study Group will meet monthly, on weekends, a fortnight after the weekend following the regular Thursday meeting (i.e. roughly half way between regular meetings), with the option available for either Saturday or Sunday meetings.

These meetings to be of two types, alternating month by month:-

- (1) excursions to natural fern habitats, with the possibility of half day short walks, longer full day hikes or weekend camping trips.
- (2) Discussion meetings at members private homes, with members bringing plants, fronds, etc., relevant to the group of ferns to be discussed (e.g. a particular genus, a section of larger genus or possibly a number of smaller related genera).

While we are prepared to co-ordinate the activities of the Study Group, we would expect that organisation of the excursions and discussion meetings would be shared by the members, so that each member would take a turn at planning an activity.

It is hoped that <u>all</u> Fern Society members would benefit from the activities of such a study group through the regular contribution of informative reports to the monthly newsletter.

- 3. It is proposed that the first of these meetings would be held on Saturday February 28th, 1987 in Sherbrooke Forest. We would plan a short walk, followed by afternoon tea with discussions of the programme for the remainder of the year.
- 4. Editors Note: Further details will be published in our December Newsletter so please keep this date free Saturday February 28th 1987.

OCTOBER MEETING - SPEAKER CHRIS WOOTEN.

MANAGER - WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT M.M.B.W.

SUBJECT: DRIP WATERING SYSTEMS.

Chris commenced his talk by explaining the rapid increase in water demand during the past ten years. With a 3% yearly increase compounded, our resevoirs need to be doubled every 20 years, and as our catchment areas are deminishing rapidly future supplies would have to come from north of the divide and this water is needed for farm irrigation.

As Australia is a fairly dry country and there is a limit to the amount of water we can collect the M.M.B.W. is trying to control the amount of water used and assist in using it wisely thereby preventing a very serious situation in 10 - 15 years.

Many who suggest it is not the householder but industry that is using our water are incorrect said Chris as 60% of all water used is by householders. Factories, schools and hospitals etc. use the other 40%. During the past 15 years industry, which pays on a litres used basis has been decreasing its use to save money therefore the M.M.B.W. are targeting the householder with their campaign. Householders use 40% on gardens and 60% inside the home.

WATER USAGE.

As many people have no idea how much water their garden needs or how often it should be watered Chris told how the M.M.B.W. in conjunction with the Nurserymans Association and manufacturers are trying to develop some simple guidelines to assist gardeners. The following information shows just why the M.M.B.W. are promoting the installation of Drip Water Systems.

Hand held hose - fast 1200 litres per hour

" " " - medium 720 litres per hour

" " - slow 360 litres per hour

Hose with sprinkler attached Fast 1020 Litres per hour

" " " medium 660 Litres per hour

" " slow 360 Litres per hour

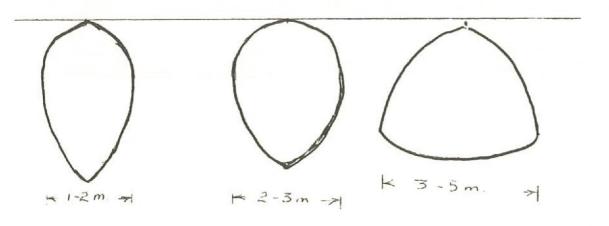
Fixed sprinkler systems 1680 Litres per hour

Drip watering system 300 Litres per hour

The biggest advantage of the drip watering system is that dripper outlets deliver the right amount of water to each plant at a rate the soil can readily absorb.

SOIL TYPE AND WATERING PATTERNS.

Sandy Loam Clay course texture medium texture fine texture



WATERING RULES.

Sandy soils once every 3 days do not prolong watering e.g. instead of 30 minutes 2 X 15 minutes Loam & Clay Soils once every 4 days after 5-10 mm of rain delay watering 1 day

Watering should match a rainfall of 15 mm and 10 Litres per square metre equals this.

DRIP WATERING.

- * often called irrigation watering trickle-drip-dribble
- * first used England 1940. Israel 1960. - Autralia - U.S.A.
- * Effective with trees, shrubs, small plants, ferns (not for lawns annuals, and root vegetables).
- * Why drip system?
 no misting
 no run off
 no wetting of leaves
 water only delivered where you want it where the plant can use it.
- * What does a drip system consist of:-
 - 1. A volume control timer (approved) up to six hours.
 - 2. A pressure reduction valve (approved) to 300 litre per hour.
 - 3. A white filter.
 - 4. 12 mm low pressure black plastic pipe. 5. Drippers (various forms and flow rates).
 - Fittings, elbows, Tees, connectors and blank ends.
 Stop taps allows direct water to specific plants.
 - 8. Goof plugs (for plugging holes when you decide to move a dripper).
 - 9. a tool to install drippers.
 - 10. pressure hose and clamps for the part of the system before the pressure reducing valve.
- * Planning a system.
 A system must be well planned and there are excellent brochures available from the M.M.B.W. to assist in self installation.
- * Timing of System.

 Small plants 1 2 litre per hour dripper

 Medium plants 1 4 litre per hour dripper

 Large plants 1 6 litre per hour dripper

 Alternatively a large shrub or tree could have 3 2 litre per hour drippers around it.
- * Operation.
 Twice per week for 6 hours.
- * Versatility.
 A system can be small initially but can be expanded or changed at any time to suit your needs.
- * Availability.
 Most hardware stores have a large variety of drip system kits or individual fittings and some have systems set up in working order.
- * Cost.
 The average overall cost per complete system is \$150.00

Continued

Restrictions.
Even during drought the M.M.B.W. will allow drip systems to be operated (twice weekly for 6 hours) up till stage 6 restrictions (2 hours per night hand watering)

Finally Chris answered the many questions put forward by members. Bill Taylor then thanked Chris for his very informative talk and congratulated him on his ability to make his subject so interesting and rewarding All members responded with warm acclamation.

A VISIT TO ALLANS FLAT PLANT FARM. by Mac Gregory.

As my wife and I were recently in the Wodonga area we decided to visit the Allans Flat Plant Farm which is one of the ferneries that advertise regularly in our Newsletter.

A quick look at a road map indicated for me that all we needed to do, was drive towards Beechworth and Allans Flat would appear - not so. Due to the recent heavy rainfall, the country with its rolling hills looked absolutely beautiful, it was a joy to pass through, and surprise! Surprise! Beechworth was suddenly upon us. We drove up to talk to a man watering his garden "Do I drive through the town for Allans Flat?" "Oh no! You have come much too far - go back towards Wodonga to the Yackandandah turnoff, it is only about 12 miles (I can't work in these new metric distances). The plant farm is out on the way to Mt. Beauty - you pass a school, there is a church, a church hall, some tennis courts I think, - but ask when you get to Yackandandah."

As the day was quite warm - we wanted to get a cool drink in Beechworth - I remembered to warn our friendly gardener that I wasn't really going to drive the wrong way when I turned towards Beechworth. We headed towards and actually arrived at Yackandandah. I checked with the postmaster for specific directions to Allans Flat Plant Farm. The postmaster points us in the right direction, "Take the Mt. Beauty road - turn first left, then first right - then pass the Osburns Flat School. Keep going following sign posts for "Plant Farm" - you can't miss them". For once, he was right, and we duly arrived at Tomkins Lane and so to Leo and Marg Meehan's property.

We introduced ourselves to Leo - (his wife was out making deliveried who greeted us with a lovely smile and kindly produced coffee and then showed us his farm. Gladys made several purchases, and we retraced some of our steps - taking the turnoff for Chiltern which is before reaching Beechworth - finally back on to the Hume Highway pointed for Melbourne. Should you be in the Wodonga area do visit Leo and Marg - to help you get there a map of the area is set out below.

Allans Flat

Plant

Farm

ALLANS
FLAT

YACKANDANDAH

ALLANS
YACKANDANDAH

ALLANS
FLAT

PARM

Tomans Lang

Plat Plant
FARM

Tomans Lang

Parm

Tomans La

VICTORIAN FERN SOCIETY BOOK SALES

AUTHOR	TITLE	PRICE NON- MEMBERS	PRICE MEMBERS	
BEST	GROWING FERNS 1st Edit. GROWING FERNS 2nd Edit. HANDBOOK ON FERNS (U.S.A.) COMMON FERNS & FERN ALLIES (N.Z.) WHATS WRONG WITH MY SOIL ORGANIC MATTER AND SOILS COMPOSTING WHEN SHOULD I WATER POTTING MIXES	3.95	3.20	В
BEST	GROWING FERNS 2nd Edit.	5.95	4.60	В
BROOKLYN B.G.	HANDBOOK ON FERNS (U.S.A.)	5.95	4.80	A
CHINNOCK	COMMON FERNS & FERN ALLIES (N.Z.)	7.95	6.00	A
CSIRO	WHATS WRONG WITH MY SOIL	1.95	1.60	A
CSIRO	ORGANIC MATTER AND SOILS	3.95	3.20	A
CSIRO	COMPOSTING	1.95	1.60	A
CSIRO	WHEN SHOULD I WATER	3.95	3.20	A
CSIRO	POTTING MIXES	3.00	2.40	A
DAVENPURI	FERNS FOR MODERN LIVING	0.93	3.00	A
DUNCAN & ISAAC	FERNS & ALLIED PLANTS OF VIC TAS & S.AUST	25.00	20.00	C
DUNK	FERNS FOR THE HOME & GARDEN	9.95	8.00	В
ELLIOT & JONES	ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS Vol. 1 ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS Vol. 2	45.00	36.00	C
ELLIOT & JONES	ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS Vol. 2	50.00	40.00	C
ELLIOT & JONES	ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS Vol. 3	50.00	40.00	C
GICK	POSTERS FERNS FROM MOTHER NATURE	5.95	4.80	A
GOUDEY	MAIDENHAIR FERNS IN CULTIVATION	59.95	43.00	C
GOUGH	PALMS AND FERNS	6.95	5.40	В
	FERNS & FERN ALLIES OF THE UPPER YARRA ETC	5.00	4.50	В
HOSHIZAKI	FERN GROWERS MANUAL	19.95	16.00	C
JONES	FERNS IN COLOUR	9.95	7.80	В
JONES & CLEMESHA	AUSTRALIAN FERNS AND FERN ALLIES	19.95	15.60	C
JONES & GOUDEY	FERNS IN AUSTRALIA, COMMON, RARE & EXOTIC	12.97	10.30	C
JONES & GOUDEY	EXOTIC FERNS IN AUSTRALIA	14.95	11.50	C
MARTIN R W	FERNS FOR FERNERIES (N.Z.)	13.00	12.00	A
MOLYNEAUX	AUSTRALFLORA HANDBOOK	6.95	5.50	A
RUSH	A GUIDE TO HARDY FERNS (U.K.)	5.50	5.00	A
S.G.A.P.	EXOTIC FERNS IN AUSTRALIA FERNS FOR FERNERIES (N.Z.) AUSTRALFLORA HANDBOOK A GUIDE TO HARDY FERNS (U.K.) FERN STUDY GROUP BOOKLET	2.50	2.00	A
V.F.S.	AUSTRALIAN FERN JOURNAL Vol 1 No 1	2.00	1.50	A

POSTAGE AND PACKING: CODE "A" \$1.50, CODE "B" \$2.50 CODE "C" VIC \$4 NSW TAS & SA \$5 QLD \$6 WA & NT \$7 AVAILABLE AT MONTHLY MEETINGS OR FROM THE BOOK SALES OFFICER BARRY WHITE 24 RUBY ST WEST ESSENDON 3040 PH(A.H.)03-337 9793

By Peter Goschnick

With greenery flowing in all directions and each fern struggling for prominence, your fernery can start to suffer from monotony. It all but cries out for a little contrast.

Try adding a splash of color to break the monotony. Bright colored flowers sprinkled through your fernery will catch the eye and draw your attention towards the ferns nearby, complimenting their green fronds.

Here are some of the flowering plants suitable for the cool and shady conditions of your fernery, that can be used to add that splash of color.

AZALEA: White, pink, purple, red, orange or yellow flowers

in winter and mainly spring. Requires a rich lime

free soil.

CINERARIA: Spring flowers in mixtures of crimson, pink,

white and blue.

DAPHNE: White and red highly perfumed flowers in winter.

Prefers acidic soil but can be difficult to

cultivate.

FUSHIA: Flowers are usually crimson with white, pink, violet

or purple corolla, blooming throughout summer.

GARDENIA: White highly perfumed flowers in summer.

Prefers slightly acidic soils.

IMPATIENTS: White, pink, lavender, red or orange flowers

throughout spring, summer and autumn. Some varietes have variegated foliage.

POLYANTHUS: Mid winter and spring flowers in white, blue, pink,

rose, red, orange or yellow.

Some with a contrasting blotch of color in the centre.

There are many other flowering plants that will flourish in your fernery, your local nurseryman will be able to advise what is available to suit the climatic conditions of your area.

As well as using flowering plants, there are many bright colored ferns that can be used to brighten up your fernery. The following are some of the more readily available colored ferns which can be used.

ARACHNOIDES SIMPLICIOR - VARIEGATED SHIELD FERN

Glossy dark green fronds with a central stripe of yellow.

A hardy fern preferring a shady position.

ATHYRIUM NIPONICUM Var PICTUM - JAPANESE PAINTED FERN

New fronds are usually metallic grey often with a purplish tinge, as the fronds mature they become dark green.

This fern requires a shady position and is tolerant of the cold.

BLECHNUM ARTICULATUM -

New growth emerges a dark blood red and slowly turns dark green as it matures.

Possibly the brightest of the red colored ferns.

A hardy fern that requires a bright position for the best color.

BLECHNUM OCCIDENTALE - HAMMOCK FERN

The emerging fronds are a pale pink becoming green as they age.

This fern spreads rapidly under ideal conditions but is cold sensitive and requires a warm, well drained position to succeed in Victoria.

CYATHEA DEALBATA - SILVER TREE FERN

The underside of the fronds has a silvery appearance as suggested by the common name, making it one of the most popular tree ferns.

It is a hardy fern but requires protection from wind and direct sun.

DRYOPTERIS ERYTHROSORA - AUTUMN FERN

As the common name suggests the new growth of this fern is in autumn tones of bronze-pink turning dark green as they reach maturity.

It is a hardy fern and succeeds in most climates preferring a shaded position.

PTERIS CRETICA cv ALBO-LINEATA - VARIEGATED TABLE FERN

The slender fronds are dark green with a white stripe down the centre.

This fern is cold sensitive and prefers a sheltered position, it also makes an excellent house plant with its striking variegated fronds.

PTERIS QUADRIAURITA Var ARGYRAEA - SILVER BRAKE FERN

The fronds of this fern are dark green with a wide silver stripe down the centre of each segment. It is a hardy fern but requires a shaded position to avoid burning of the silver stripe.

PTERIS QUADRIAURITA Var TRICOLOR - PAINTED BRAKE FERN

The new growth emerges a deep purplish-red becoming dark green as they mature.

This fern is sensitive to cold weather and requires a protected position.

Try some of these colorful plants in your fernery and see how much they brighten it up.

CONTINUATION FROM OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

"Fern notes" by R.H.B. Siebel

- 8. Microsorium parksii: Very similar to our native kangaroo fern but comes from fiji and the Pacific islands. Its external appearance belies its hardiness for it is a remarkably tough plant that can be successfully grown in a variety of garden situations from full shade to full sun in the ground. It thrives in sandy soils and is remarkably tolerant of dryness although the clumps look better if watered. Can be used in baskets and pots, and can be used indoors if given occasional spells outside. A good patio potplant.
- 9. Christella dentata, binung Hardy but likes shady spots in the ground. Can be potted but quickly outgrows the pot. It can be used indoors in pots if it is kept moist and spelled outside from time to time.
- 10. Pteris tremula, trembling brake Semi-hardy, and extremely easy to propogate from spore. NOTE: spore on the edge of the fronds, typical of all Pteris ferns.
 - Can make a good potted specimen for indoors, must be given plenty of light and spelled frequently outside to keep it healthy. In a shady spot in the ground it can grow 4 or 5 feet tall and make a very showy specimen.
- 11. Pteris umbrosa, jungle brake It is very hardy and quickly builds up into an attractive clump in the ground. Easily grown in a protected position in the ground or in pots: NOTE: Most potted ferns can be taken indoors provided they are given frequent spells outdoors.
- 12. Doodia aspera, prickly rasp fern Very easily grown in a variety of situations, from shade to considerable sun; very hardy and tolerant of root competitions. The developing fronds are bright pink or red and are particularly attractive. Can be used in pots but does not do well indoors.
- 13. Adiantum hispidulum, rough maidenhair or five fingered Jack It is a reasonably hardy fern it can be grown in pots indoors or outdoors in a shadehouse; it also does well in the ground in a reasonably sheltered spot. Can be quite attractive with its pink shoots, there is also a smaller leafed type with much darker shoots that are almost red.
- 14. Adiantum cappil-veneris cv. fragrantissimum Maidenhair Very hardy and can be grown in pots indoors or in the shadehouse. It will also do well in a sheltered spot in the ground. NOTE: That most hardy maidenhair ferns can be grown in pots and can be taken indoors but always do better if they are given spells of fresh air by being taken out into a shade house or shelter.
- 15. Cyrtomium falcatum, Holly fern This fern makes an excellent potted specimen and it is extremely hardy; it likes to be allowed to get nearly dry before being watered again. (Do not overwater). In a reasonably sheltered situation outside it does well in the ground and will produce 3 foot long fronds at maturity.

A HYBRID ASPLENIUM

Reg Williams

In late 1974 I was a member of a climbing party called upon to extricate a walker from a coastal cliff face near South-East Cape in the far south of Tasmania. A companion of the man in trouble had spent a day walking out to get help and, early on the following morning, four of us were landed by helicopter on a rocky shore about an hours rough walking away from the scene. The rescue was effected without incident. The victim was in good shape despite having spent some seventeen hours perched on a small ledge.

On the way back through forest to the helicopter pick-up point, I noticed some large terrestrial ferms, obviously Asplenium, but not consistent with any species known to occur in the State. Detailed botanising was out of the question; however, I collected a frond for later examination.

The fronds were approximately one metre in length. Their shape resembled that of A. <u>bulbiferum</u>. The pinnules, however, were more like those of A. <u>obtusatum</u>, except that the margins were much more deeply toothed.

A few weeks later I managed to persuade some friends to accompany me on a return visit, on foot this time, to camp in the area, collect more material and to examine the surroundings. The walk in, around the rocky coastline took several hours.

A number of plants were found, growing under a tree canopy in the company of <u>A. bulbiferum</u>, this too having fronds one metre or so in length. Present also was A. obtusatum, both on the nearby shoreline and, in a more luxuriant form, in the forest.

I returned home with a complete plant which I later divided, sending one piece to Sydney for examination by Dr. Tindale who determined it to be a hybrid of A. bulbiferum and A. obtusatum. I potted two more pieces. They both grew and survive still, though somewhat diminished in size. The plants still produce spores in reasonable quantity, and while it is doubtful if these would be viable, it could be of interest to attempt to propagate them. I am forwarding some material in case someone would care to try the experiment.



Jop

Underside

A bulbiferum x obtusatum fertile pinna actual size

Reprinted from S.G.A.P. Fern Study Newsletter March, 1983



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ANSWER TO OCTOBER 'CAN YOU NAME THIS FERN?'

Blechnum Brasiliense.(Known as crested fern.) As its name implies it is a species of Brazil and the largest of the genus develops into a low-growing tree fern. Has short creeping rhizomes and forms a crown which grows into a trunk. Loves a wet but well drained position.

DUYERS' GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIES

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6 Nelson Street
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Phone: (02) 84 2684
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1 km north of Big Pineapple
Turn right into Kell Road, Woombye
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DIARY DATES.

November Meeting - Thursday 13th Michael Garret - Ferns of Tasmania

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 48 58 Retail

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VICTORIA.

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