THE FERN SOCIETY

OFVICTORIA

Inc

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2, MARCH, 1988.

OFFICE BEARERS:

PRESIDENT: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna	3084.
TREASURER: Albert Ward, 82 Grandview Grove, Rosanna	45, 2997 3084
Telephone:	459 4392
SECRETARY: Derek Griffiths, 8 Susan Court, East Kellor	
Telephone:	336 3157
BOOK SALES: Barry White, 24 Ruby Street, West Essendon	3040
Telephone:	337 9793
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Jean Trudgeon P.O. Box 45, Heidelb	erg West 3084
Telephone:	459 4859
EDITOR: Mac Gregory, 93 Mountainview Parade, Rosanna	3084
Telephone:.	458 2819
SPORE BANK: Joel Macher, 31 Anora Crescent, Mulgrave,	3170

PRESIDENTS REPORT.

It was very pleasing indeed to see our new venue overflowing with 92 members present. This was an excellent start to our year and although we have a few problems I feel sure we will find solutions fairly quickly.

Our March meeting which I feel is crucial to the future of our Society will need each member to contribute to the study groups as by participating we gain the knowledge to become experts.

The format of our Fern Study will be to divide into four groups of approximately 20 members and study one fern family for 30 minutes, then move on to another. With a further meeting later in the year we will then all have covered four fern families.

Chairperson for each group

Betty Duncan
Chris Goudey
Reith Hutchinson
Doug Thomas
Blechnums
Polystichum & Asplenium.
Hypolepis
any fern specie you find difficulty
in growing.

Please remember to bring along a magnifying glass or jewellers eyeglass or if possible a small microscope. Also a pencil, some fronds, rhizomes, potted ferns etc. of the groups you wish to study.

As this is our first endeavour in fern study groups please give any suggestion for improvement to a member of your committee and we will seriously consider each one.

Society promotional programs for 1988.

The first two of these take place during March and I ask each member to take very seriously my request for assistance on these occasions. Details follow in the newsletter.

Special Effort Winners.

- 1. Norma Hodges
- 3. Rod McConchie
- 5. Julien Basser

- 2. Margaret Radley
- 4. Ann Bryant

.Thursday March 10.

New Venue !! Welsh Presbyterian

Church Hall 320 Latrobe st

Melbourne

FERN SALES COMMENCE 7.30p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

MEETING COMMENCES AT 8.00 P.M.

PROGRAMME - FERN STUDY FOLLOWED BY FERN IDENTIFICATION AND PATHOLOGY TABLE.

SPECIAL EFFORT - SUPPER - 10.00 P.M. - CLOSE.

New Members.

I would like to welcome to our Society the following new members:-

Jim & Jenny Bland Terry & Louise Brennan Martin & Edna Verhagen

Kind Regards,
Keith Hutchinson.

SPEAKER REPORT - General Meeting 11th February, 1988.

SPEAKER: Chris Goudey TITLE: "Tree Ferns"

Chris chose three genera of tree ferns for this study - Dicksonia Cibotium and Cyathea. To illustrate his comments on individual species he brought to the meeting many potted specimens - all in immaculate condition. He sæid that world-wide there are twenty species of Dicksonia, eight of Cibotium and at least five hundred of Cyathea.

1. Dicksonia.

Distribution: Australia (3), New Zealand (3), America (2), New Caledonia (1), Fiji (1), and Malaysia and Pacific Regions (10).

Natural Habitat: Mountain rain forest gullies and gorges with perhaps D. Squarrosa of New Zealand being an exception. Squarrosa has a wide variety of habitats including dry forest.

Distinguishing Features: This genus has no scales but produces cylindrical hairs along the frond stipes. The sori are developed around the margins of the fertile pinnae and are protected by a two valve cap system. When the spore is ripe the caps open up to eject the spore. The spore is usually yellow.

2. Cibotium.

<u>Distribution</u>: Tropical America (2), Hawaiian Islands (4), South East Asia and Malaysia region (2).

Natural Habitat: Similar to Dicksonia but preferring tropical environments.

<u>Distinguishing Features</u>: In appearance Cibotium and Dicksonia are similar but Cibotium produces long pale coloured hairs on stipes and has large sori.

Observations: This genus is tender and not easy to cultivate in Southern Australia unless glass house conditions are provided. Most species are glaucous on the backs of fronds. The Malaysian species are prostrate growers.

3. Cyathea.

Distribution: Australia, including Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island (17 and 1 sub species), New Zealand (7) (one species, C. Faciloba is extinct), Asia (191), New Guinea (about 200), New Caledonia (7), New Hebrides (5), Samoa (9), Solomon Islands (8), and Fiji (11). All of the Australian and New Zealand species are described as either Sphaeropteris or Alsophila.

Natural Habitat: Mountain rain forests occurring around the world at similar latitudes. (Pantropic)

Observations: The difference between Alsophila and Sphaeropteris can be seen in the scales; those of Sphaeropteris are long tapering in outline and all the cells in the scales are elongate, parallel and uniform in size. In Alsophila the scales vary in shape and are often quite broad. They all have a long narrow projection issuing from the apex of each scale. The cells in the centre of the scale are elongate but those on the outer edges are irregular in size and dispersed indifferently.

4. Species Details.

Chris explained characteristics, habitats and cultivation expectations of fifty individual species of tree ferns. The list is so long and detailed that it is not possible to publish all of the information in one issue of the Newsletter. The list which follows is condensed to a selected number of species from each genus.

- 5. The Dicksonias.
- 5.1 D. Antarctica

 Soft Tree Fern.

 This species has a wide ranging habitat which extends from
 Tasmania to South Queensland. Throughout its range this tree
 fern varies in form and shape. It is very hardy and can be
 grown by planting the upper portion of the trunk in the soil
 in a shaded position roots are not needed. The lower portion
 of its trunk is often cut into slabs or hanging baskets.

 Very Hardy.
- 5.2 D. Youngiae. Bristly Tree Fern.
 Youngiae is found in the coastal forests and tablelands of central and northern New South Wales and Southern Queensland. It has a slender trunk and dark brown bristly hairs. It is stoloniferous and produces buds on the trunk, (clump growing).

 Fairly Hardy.
- 5.3 D. Squarrosa Whoki.

 Very common in New Zealand as far south as Stewart Island with a wide range of habitats. It has a slender trunk, is stoloniferous and forms large colonies. Fronds are glaucous on the underside and it produces dormant buds on the trunk.

 Very Hardy.
- Another New Zealand species which also occurs on Chatham and Stewart Islands. Its habitat ranges from sea level to the mountains and is very similar in appearance to D. Antarctica, even in the respect that the trunk can be cut and the crown portion transplanted. The trunk is fibrous and the fronds quite prickly.

 Very Hardy.
 - 6. The Cibotiums.
- 6.1 C.Regale and C. Scheidei.
 Both species are from tropical America and are very attractive.
 They have large weeping fronds which are not glaucous on the back. The scales are long and pale.

Tender- Need glasshouse cultivation.

- 6.2 C. Barowetz and C. Cumingii.
 These are south east Asian and Malaysian plants. They are both prostrate tree ferns having long arching fronds glaucous on the back. They are often referred to as "having the shape of a lamb".

 Tender need glasshouse cultivation.
- 7. The Cyatheas.

 7.1 C. Australis (Alsophila) Rough Tree Fern.

 This is a very large hardy species which prefers to grow in rain forest on maountain ridges rather than deep gullies. In Australia their habitat extends from Tasmania to Queensland. The fern has lush green fronds with stipe bases rough to the touch and yellowish in colour. A sub-species, C. Norfolkiensis occurs on Norfolk Island.

 Fairly Hardy.

- 7.2 C. Cooperi (Sphaeropteris)

 Cooperi enjoys a wide range of habitats which include coastal rainforests, mountain ranges and inland forges. It is to be found growing in those environments from central New South Wales right through to Cape York, Queensland. The fern has a slender trunk which is typically marked with oval shaped scars, the fronds are fleshy but extremely variable throughout the regions of its habitats.

 Very Hardy.
- 7.3 C. Cunninghamii (Alsophila) Slender Tree Fern.
 This is an uncommon to rare species which prefers to grow in very damp gullies in Tasmania, Victoria, Southern New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand. It is a tall slender fern with pale straw coloured scales and fine soft to the touch fronds.

Fairly Hardy.

- 7.4 C. Marcescens (Alsophila) Skirted Tree Fern.

 Marcescens has a very limited habitat, growing only in places where C. Australis and C. Cunninghamii grow together. The tree fern is intermediate in appearance to both C. Australis and C. Cunninghamii. Mature plants are huge and quite spectacular.

 Fairly Hardy.
- 7.5 C. Howeana (Alsophila)
 On Lord Howe Island, Howeana is a mountain species which has adapted to growing in full sun. It has a slender, woody trunk marked with oval scars. The fronds are fleshy with broad triangular scales on the stipe bases. The pinnules are deflexed to protect the sori.

 Tender needs glasshouse cultivation.
- 7.6 C. Medullaris (Sphaeropteris)

 This species is very widespread. It occurs in New Zealand, Stewart Island, Fiji and Tahiti. It is abundant throughout the dominion and is by far the largest species. It is characterised by a massive trunk, oval scars and jet black stipes.

 Very Hardy once established.
- 7.7 C. Dealbata (Alsophila) Punga Silver King.
 Dealbata is the New Zealand National Emblem. It grows
 abundantly throughout the dominion although less common in the
 south. It has a thick trunk, dark scales and an almost luminous
 white farina on the underside of the fronds. Juvenile plants
 are not glaucous. Semi hardy.
- * Plants marked with an asterisk are those recommended for inclusion in the fern collections of novices and beginners.

Vote of Thanks.

In moving a vote of thanks to Chris on behalf of Members, Bernadette Blackstock referred to the thoroughness of Chris's preparation, the careful and detailed nature of his technical information and the magnificence of both fern specimens and colour slides which he brought to display.

Bernadette's remarks had the full support of the large audience.

Senior Citizens Week

Home Gardeners Workshop "GARDENING MADE EASY"

NUNAWADING HORTICULTURAL CENTRE

82 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill.

Sunday MARCH 20th 12 noon to 4.00 p.m.

We will be setting up a small display - demonstration - information-sales (Book and Ferns) stand between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon and dismantleing between 4.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. Committee members will be on hand so please bring a fern for display and a few for the sales table if possible.

* * * * * *

EXPO - 50 - PLUS

Victorian Expo Centre

Royal Melbourne Showgrounds.

Thursday March 24th 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday March 25th 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday March 26th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We will be sharing stand No. 96 with Ivy Ceramics by Jean Trudgeon and will need ferns for display and for sale, also society members to assist with information membership forms and book sales.

Setting up is on Wednesday 23rd March.

* * * * * *

Reg Siebel 15 Norville Street, East Bentleigh Phone: 570 7513

Moving interstate so selling most of his collection.

Has a very large Black Stemmed Maidenhair and Nephrolepis hirsutula plus a large range of other ferns.

* * * * * *

Our Society is very fortunate to have a member who gives her time every month to type our Newsletter. Maureen Verhagen also has a family to look after and now has a part-time job as her husband is going to study for a new career in the near future. Maureen has asked if among our membership we may have a typist who could assist with typing during her busy times.

Victorian Fern Society

BOOK SALES

Author	Title	Price non- members	Price members	
BEST, RAY	GROWING FERNS (first edit.) GROWING FERNS (second edit.) HANDBOOK ON FERNS (U.S.A.) A KEY TO THE GENERA OF N.Z. FERNS &	3.95	3.60	C
BEST, RAY	GROWING FERNS (second edit.)	5.95	4.60	C
BROOKLYN BOT. GARDEN	HANDBOOK ON FERNS (U.S.A.)	5.95	4.80	В
BROWNSEY & GALLOWAY	A KEY TO THE GENERA OF N.Z. FERNS &	6.00	5.50	В
CHINDOOM	ALLIED PLANTS	7 05	0.00	D
CHINNOCK	COMMON FERNS AND FERN ALLIES (N.Z.)	7.95	1.00	В
CSIRU	WHAT S WRUNG WITH MY SUIL	1.95	1.60	A
CSIRU	COMPOGRANC MATTER AND SUILS	3.95	3.20	В
CSIRU	COMPOSTING	1.95	1.60	В
CSIRU	PUTTING MIXES	3.00	2.40	В
CSTMO	WHEN SHOULD I WATER	3.95	3.20	В
DAVENPURI	FERNS FUR MUDERN LIVING	7.95	6.00	В
DUNCAN & ISAAC	A KEY TO THE GENERA OF N.Z. FERNS & ALLIED PLANTS COMMON FERNS AND FERN ALLIES (N.Z.) WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY SOIL ORGANIC MATTER AND SOILS COMPOSTING POTTING MIXES WHEN SHOULD I WATER FERNS FOR MODERN LIVING FERNS AND ALLIED PLANTS OF VIC TAS & S.AUST	35.00	28.00	D
DUNK, GILLIAN	S.AUST FERNS FOR THE HOME AND GARDEN ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS	12 95	10.00	C
ELLIOT & JONES	ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS	70.00	50.00	D
	Vol. 4	.0.00	00.00	
ELLIOT, GWEN	AUSTRALIAN PLANTS FOR SMALL GARDENS	17.95	14.00	D
ELLIOT, GWEN	GARDENERS GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN PLANTS	24.95	19.00	D
GEORGE A	THE BANKSIA BOOK	29.95	24.00	D
GICK	FERNS FROM MOTHER NATURE	6.95	5.50	В
GOUDEY, CHRIS	MAIDENHAIR FERNS IN CULTIVATION	59.95	43.00	D
GOUGH	PALMS AND FERNS	6.95	5.60	C
HOSHIZAKI	FERN GROWERS MANUAL	24.95	20.00	D
JONES & CLEMESHA	AUSTRALIAN FERNS AND FERN ALLIES	19.95	16.00	D
JONES & GOUDEY	Vol. 4 AUSTRALIAN PLANTS FOR SMALL GARDENS GARDENERS GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN PLANTS THE BANKSIA BOOK FERNS FROM MOTHER NATURE MAIDENHAIR FERNS IN CULTIVATION PALMS AND FERNS FERN GROWERS MANUAL AUSTRALIAN FERNS AND FERN ALLIES FERNS IN AUSTRALIA, COMMON, RARE & EXOTIC	19.95	16.00	D
	EXOTIC FERNS IN COLOUR ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF FERNS PLANTS FROM TEST TUBES FERNS FOR FERNERIES (N.Z.) A GUIDE TO HARDY FERNS (U.K.) FERN STUDY GROUP BOOKLET			
JONES, DAVID	FERNS IN COLOUR	9.95	7.80	C
JONES, DAVID	ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF FERNS	100.00	75.00	D
KYTE L	PLANTS FROM TEST TUBES	39.95	32.00	D
MARTIN R W	FERNS FOR FERNERIES (N.Z.)	13.00	12.00	В
RUSH	A GUIDE TO HARDY FERNS (U.K.)	5.50	5.00	В
S.G.A.P.	FERN STUDY GROUP BOOKLET	2.50	2.00	
SCHAUMANN, M et al.	AUSTRALIAN DAISIES	20.00	16.00	C
SIMMONS M	ACACIAS OF AUSTRALIA	29.95	24.00	D
THOMAS, DOUG	WHAT TO DO ABOUT FERNS	2.00	1.50	A
V.F.S.	AUSTRALIAN FERN JOURNAL	2.00	1.50	A
WRIGLEY & FAGG	AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS	44.95	36.00	D

Packing & postage code A 75c, B \$1.00, C \$2.40, code D 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(Priv.)03-3379793 (Bus.) 03-7411300 Ext 161

SEPTEMBER

87 SPORE L157

(N) INDICATES NATIVE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES

	ADIANTUM CAUDATUM(3-87) PERUVIANUM(6-86)	TRAILING MAIDENHAIR SILVER DOLLAR
	POLIFHYLLUM(3-86)	
	RADDIANUM 'BRIDAL VEIL' (3-87)	
	RADDIANUM 'CRESTED MAJUS'(3-87)	
	RADDIANUM 'DELICATULUM'(3-86)	
	RADDIANUM 'SRACILLIMUM'(3-87)	
	RADDIANUM GRANDICEPS'(3-87)	
	RADDIANUM (GROSSUM (3-87)	
	RADDIANUM 'LADY GENEVA' (3-86)	
	RADDIANUM 'LADY SUPREME'(3-86)	
	RADDIANUM MATTHEWSII'(3-87)	
	RADDIANUM (VICTORIA S ELEGANS'(3-87)	
	RADDIANUM 'WEIGANDII'(3-87)	
	AGLADMORPHA HERACLEA (6-87)	DIED/C MEET FEEN
N	ASPLENIUM AUSTRALASICUM(8-86)	BIRD'S-NEST FERN
N	BULBIFERUM (NATIVE) (1-87)	MOTHER SPLEENWORT
	OBLONGIFOLIUM (9-86)	CHORE OR ECHIDOT
N	DBTUSATUM(1-B7)	SHORE SPLEENWORT
N	TRICHOMANES(1-86)	COMMON SPLEENWORT
	VITTAEFORMIS(3-87)	
	SP.(NIDUS?-W.IRIAN)('87) ATHYRIUM SCHIMPERI(3-87)	
		NEEDLE FERN
N	BELVISIA MUCRONATA(3-86).	NCEDLE FERN
	PLATYRYNCHES (6-87)	
	BLECHNUM CAPENSE('86) DISCOLOR('86)	CROWN FERN
		RAY WATER-FERN
N	FLUVIATILE (3-87)	AHI WHIER-PEAN
	GIGANTEUM(3-86) MINUS(3-86)	SOFT WATER-FERN
N	NUDUM 'PULCHERRIMUM'(8-85)	SUFT WHIER-PERM
N	SPICANT(3-86)	HARD FERN
	[ABULARE(4-87)	HAND PENIA
N	WATTS11 (2-85)	HARD WATER-FERN
N	WURUNURAN (9-84)	THILD WHILK I LIKE
11	BOLBITIS CUSHIDATA(10-84)	
1.1	CHRISTELLA DENTATA(2-85)	BINUNG
N	CIBOTIUM GLAUCUM(8-66)	HAWAIIAN TREEFERN
	SCHIEDEI (11-86)	MEXICAN TREE-FERN
N	CULCITA DUBIA(4-86)	COMMON GROUND-FERN
14	CYATHEA BROWNII(2-86)	COLLIER DIRECTE I CITY
N	COOPERI(3-87)	COIN-SPOT TREE-FERN
	COOPERI (BLACK SCALES) (2-86)	COIN-SPOT THEE-FERN
N	COOPERI (GLAUCOUS) (186)	COIN-SPOT THEE-FERN
1.A	DEALBATA(3-87)	SILVER TREE-FERN
	LEICHHARDTIANA(3-85)	PRICKLY TREE-FERN
M	MEDULLARIS (3-87)	BLACK TREE-FERN
	MEDULLARIS(3-87) SP.(NEW BUINEA)(2-86)	DEMON THEE TERM
	SP.(NEW BOINEH)(2-86)	
	DIRTOMIUM FALSA(UM(3-87)	HOLLY FERN
	FALCATOM X LHRIGHTDEUM(186)	HULL I LIM
٨,	FHECHION A CHARGITEEN (86)	ener rucelevem

N	DICKBONIA ANTARCTICA (3-87)	SOFT TREE FERN
	FIBRUSA(3-86)	WHEKI-PONGA
	LANATA (186)	
	SQUARROSA (3-86)	WHEKI
N _	YOUNGIAE(S.QLD FORM) (6-85)	BRISTLY TREE-FERN
N	DIPLAZIUM AUSTRALE (3-87)	AUSTRAL LADY-FERN
	DORYOPIEKIS FEDATA(2-87)	HAND FERN
N	DRYNARIA RIGIDULA(4-86)	BASKET FERN
	DRYOPTERIS AFFINIS (CHRISTATA((11-85)	
	CARTHUSTANA (2-85)	NARROW BUCKLER-FERN
	CARTHUSIANA (CRESTED) (3-86)	
	DILATATA (LEPIDOTA (2-67)	
	FILIX-MAS (URISTATA (3-86)	
	FILIX-MAS 'GRANDICEPS' (3-86)	
	GYMNOSORA 'ANGUSTATA' (4-85)	
	INEQUALIS(4-87)	
	SIEBOLDI (3-85)	
* 6	SP.(KOREAN CROWN-FERN) (3-86)	DUDBY COCUMB FELM
N	HYPOLEPIS RUGOSULA(3-87)	RUDDY GROUND-FERN
N	PUNCTATA (3-86)	DOWNY GROUND-FERN
N	LASTREOPSIS ACUMINATA (11-85)	SHINY SHIELD-FERN
	CALANTHA (3-86)	34544555 454 5554
N	LUNATHYRIUM JAPONICUM (4-87)	JAFANESE LADY-FERN
N	MICROLEPIA SPELUNCAE (3-86)	
	STRIGOSA(2-87)	
	PAESIA SCABERULA (7-86)	RING FERN
N	PELLAEA FALCATA NANA(11-85)	DWARF SICKLE-FERN
	ROTUNDIFOLIA(2-87)	BUTTON FERN
	PITYROGRAMMA CHRYSOPHYLLA(3-86)	GOLD-DUST FERN
N	PLATYCERIUM BIFURCATUM(3-87)	ELKHORN FERN
N	HILL11 (4-86)	NTH QLD ELK
	HOLTTUMII(4-84)	
	RIDLEY11(11-85)	
	WILLINKII (PAYTON((?)	
	SP.(TIMOR)('87)	
	POLYPODIUM FORMOSANUM (9-86)	GRUB FERN
	VULGARE (4-86)	COMMON FOLYFODY
N	POLYSTICHUM AUSTRALIENSE (3-85)	
	ECHINATUM(2-87)	
N	FORMOSUM (3-87)	BROAD SHIELD-FERN
	LONCHIT16 (3-85)	HOLLY FERN
	MAKINOI(3-85)	
	POLYBLEPHARUM (3-85)	
N	PROLIFERUM(11-85)	MOTHER SHIELD-FERN
	RETROSO-MALEACEUM (G-86)	
	SETIFERUM (FALCATUM DYCE (3-86)	SOFT SHIELD-FERN
	SETIFERUM /GRANDICEPS/ (3-85)	SOFT SHIELD-FEHN
	SETIFERUM (ROTUNDATUM/(10-85)	SOFT SHIELD-FERN
	WHITELEGII(5-85)	
	SP.(ASIA)(3-85)	
	PTERIS BIAURITA (3-86)	
N	COMANS (2-85)	NETTED BRAKE
14	CRETICA(2-85)	CRETAN BRAKE
	CRETICA (PARKERII'(3-87)	CILETAN BITAIL
	GUADRIAURITA (ANGTRAEA)(3-87)	SILVER BRAKE
N	TREMULA(3-87)	TENDER BRAKE
14		
	TRICOLOR(3-87)	PAINTED BRAKE
N	VITTATA (3-87)	CHINESE BRAKE
	QUERCIFILIX ZEILANICA(10-85)	DAK FERN
	RUMOHKA ADIANTIFORMIS(CAPE FORM)(3-87)	
N	ADIANTIFORMIS(NATIVE)(11-85)	LEATHERY SHIELD-FERN
	WOODWARBIA FIMBRIATA(186)	



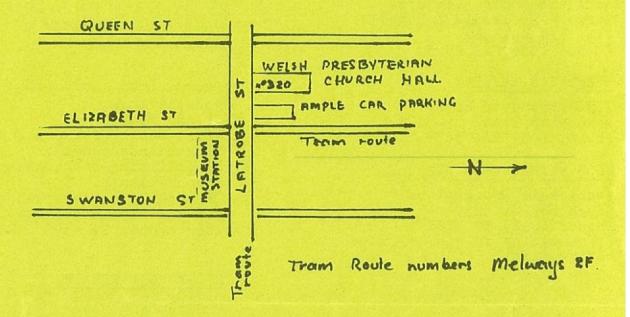
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BUYERS' GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIES.

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DIARY DATES.

VENUE - WELSH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL -320 LATROBE ST. MELBOURNE.

		August	11
March	10	September	8
April	14	October	13
May	12	November	10
June	9	December	8
July	14		

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.

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00m east of Seville Shopping Centre)
closed Tuesdays except Public Holidays)

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VICTORIA.

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WEEAPROINAH. 3237

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opposite Kinglake west Primary Sch.
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orchids Phone Gloria or Kevin
on 057 865 481