THE FERN SOCIETY

OFVICTORIA

Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 8, SEPTEMBER, 1988.

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 45,

Heidelberg West, Victoria, Australia, 3084

NEW OFFICE BEARERS:

President: Robert Lee Ph. - 836 1528 Immed. Past Pres.: Keith Hutchinson - 45 2997 Vice-Presidents: John Oliver - 879 1976 Terry Turney - 211 8169 Treasurer: Albert Ward - 459 4392 Secretary: Bernadette Blackstock - 391 5517 Spore Bank Manager: Barry White - 337 9793 Membership Secretary: John Oliver - 879 1976 Editor: Terry Turney - 211 8169

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Single - \$13.00 (Pensioner/Student - \$9.00); Family - \$16.00 (Pensioners - \$11.00);

Overseas - A\$25.00 (by Airmail).

NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The 1988 Annual General meeting saw several changes in the membership of the new Committee of Management, following the retirement of Keith Hutchinson, Doug Thomas and Derek Griffiths from the positions of President, immediate past President and Secretary respectively. They leave with our sincere thanks for their major contributions to the progress of our Society.

A glance above will reveal the identity of your new President (thank you for the honour) and Bernadette Blackstock kindly agreed to resume the position as Secretary, which she held prior to Derek's term of office. Terry Turney has moved into the vacant vice-President's position and we welcome Joel Macher (previously Spore Bank Manager) and Andre Cleghorn as new Committee Members. Andre is doubly welcome as the only new addition to our overall "operating team".

There has been some redistribution of other duties following these changes in the Committee. the listing on page 11 shows the names of the members who will serve the Society for the next twelve months in both statutory positions on the Committee of Management and in other functional positions which keep this organization running. I'm sure I speak for all in thanking them for their continuing endeavours.

We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Keith Hutchinson for his great dedication and untiring work over the past three years. In addition to his duties as President, he also assumed the function of Editor during the past year following Mac Gregory's accident. This means that Keith has been Editor of the Newsletter for all but two years since the Society's founding in 1979. He was also vice-President for two years in the early days of the Society. A great record, Keith! Thank you on behalf of us all.

(Cont. page 11)

NEXT MEETING

"FERNS OF BOUGANVILLE AND P.N.G."

by CHRIS GOUDEY

on THURSDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER 1988

at the WELSH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL

320 LATROBE STREET, MELBOURNE

PROGRAMME:

7.30 p.m. Fern and Book Sales

Spore Bank, Library Loans Special Effort Ticket Sales

8.00 p.m. September General Meeting

8.30 p.m. Talk by Speaker

9.30 p.m. Fern Pathology and Identification Table.

Special Effort.

9.45 p.m. Supper.

10.00 p.m. Close

EXCURSION:

To Norma's Fernery: It is with considerable regret we learn that Norma Bussell has decided to close her popular nursery at Carboor. She intends to sell its contents, both retail and many rare stock plants, on Saturday 5th Nov. All plants will be discounted in price. The Society hopes to arrange a bus trip to Norma's on that day. Details are yet to be finalized, but the bus will probably leave the Gas and Fuel Corp. buildings in Flinders St at 8 a.m. After Norma's we will probably have lunch and then proceed to Brown Bros. winery Estimated cost will range between \$19 and \$25, depending upon numbers. If you wish to go, then please bring a deposit (\$5) along to the next meeting.

• SPEAKERS' REPORT - August General Meeting.

Subject: "Landscaping a Fern Garden". Speakers: Albert Jenkins and Doug Thomas,

Fern Society Life Members.

Albert Jenkins began by explaining that of all his accrued interests in ferns, the planning and development of his rain forest, fern garden is special.

A feature which Albert found effective is the use of trees as the upper storey, tree ferns and medium-sized shrubs as an intermediate level with the ground ferns providing the under-storey.

In a fern garden, Albert felt that paths should be made to curve or wind through the plants and to be raised in the centre to facilitate drainage to the sides. Straight paths are not attractive in such a situation. Albert has also employed water to effect in his garden: he has included a fish pond with a small bridge over. This bridge is constructed with the cast iron wheels of a hay baling machine making up the sides and supporting the decking. Albert has also contrived a waterfall and bird bath, attracting many small birds who come and bathe.

He has succeeded in growing no less than 14 tree fern species in this "garden forest", including: Dicksonia antarctica (soft tree fern), Cyathea australis (rough tree fern), C. baileyana (wig fern) and C. medullaris (N.Z. black tree fern). Camellias are used support the visual impact of the tree ferns.

Albert's winter maintenance for his soft tree ferns involves simply watering them every 4-5 days, thoroughly wetting the trunks but not the crowns. In response to this method, one soft tree fern has rewarded Albert with 43 fronds in one flush of growth!

Doug Thomas made use of a series of colour slides to illustrate the processes involved in preparing a fern garden for planting. The slides delved into three topics: formal landscaping, natural landscaping and applying Nature's methods at home.

i) Formal Landscaping.

Slides of the fern plot in the Geelong Botanic Gardens and of the Anglo-Japanese Commemorative Garden in Cowra, N.S.W., illustrated the use of the "three-tier system". This involves tall trees, then boulders, tree ferns and/or shrubs and finally ground cover plants. At Cowra, the use of water as a small lake and a small perpetual waterfall added to the interest and attractiveness of the scene.

ii) Natural Landscaping.

The photographs here illustrated Nature's way of providing the each element to Its three-tier system - rocks and boulders, water vines, creepers, orchids, mosses, ferns, palms etc. All of these elements combine to present the most beautiful of scenic wonders.

iii) Applying Nature's Methods at Home.

Doug said that in simulating Nature, soil preparation should be aimed at providing good drainage and filtration for fern and similar plants. Trenching systems were described as a means of achieving this. He pointed out that in a natural rain forest, there are many more other plant species than there were ferns. When we achieve the correct environment at home it is possible to supplement the ferns with native creepers, rainforest trees, vines, native epiphytic orchids and palms.

Our new president, Bob lee, thanked both speakers for their well presented contributions. Members were supportive by

acclamation.

ЕОВТНСОМІИВ ЗНОМЗ:

To make our participation in shows a success we will need members who can loan ferns to exhibit, as well as those who wish to sell ferns. Just as important are plenty of helpers who are willing to spare just a couple of hours on our stalls. Please assist!

The Stringybark Festival will be held on the weekend of 15-16th October in the Ferntree Gully Community Centre (on the Burwood Hwy, opposite the Swagman Restaurant). The Society will be holding a display of hardy ferns and a plant sale. Exhibitors, sellers and helpers will be needed to make this a successful show. Setting up the exhibit can be done on the Friday up to 10 p.m. Please contact Bill Taylor (754 8275) for further details if you can participate. This major for further details if you can participate. This major event, organized by Knox City Council, usually attracts about 15,000 people, and so provides an excellent opportunity to promote the Fern Society.

Nunawading Art and Craft Festival will be held in the Nunawading Horticultural Centre, in Jolimont Road, on the Wunawading Horticultural Centre, in Jolimont Road, on the weekend of the 22-23rd October. Along with about 10 other societies, the Fern Society hopes to exhibit and sell plants. Setting up may be done on Friday, 21st between 1 and 8 p.m. or the Saturday morning (8 a.m.-12 noon). The show is open Sat. 1-6 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. There is no admission charge to Society members who come to participate. Please contact Derek Griffiths (336 3157) with your offers of assistance.

The Lifetimes of Some Chemical Garden Sprays.

1. Pyrethum-based sprays - will keep indefinitely if protected from strong light.

2. Carbaryl - will keep and remain effective for several months.

3. Rogor - is not very stable and becomes ineffective after only 2-3 weeks.

4. Mancozeb - is not at all stable and should be used straight away.

5. Malathion - as for Mancozeb.

From time to time we make up chemical garden sprays to cope with insect infestation in our fern collections or garden plants. Very often we mix too much for the first spraying and are left with a surplus of spray, with doubts as to how spray, will remain viable.

The following, based on notes supplied by the Hortico Co., should resolve these doubts:



Continued from the August issue, with acknowledgements to the Forestry Commission of N.S.W..

FERNS IN THE FOREST

Fishbone Ferns (Blechnaceae)

This genus consists of about 180 species widely distributed throughout the world with about 18 species in Australia. Blechnums are very common ferns in eastern Australia and in some areas the dominant feature of the vegetation: they are commonly called water ferns, as they are usually found in wet places.

Fishbone Fern (Blechnum nudum)

An attractive fern with numerous light green fronds arranged from a central base in a symmetrical manner and tapering towards both ends.

FISHBONE FERN

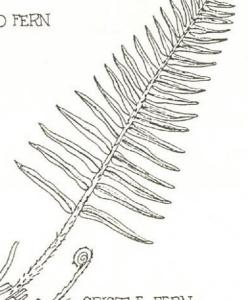
Common Ground Fern (Culcita dubia)

The genus consists of about nine species, two occurring in Australia. The most widespread and common fern (except for bracken which it resembles) in Australia. The fronds are large, soft, yellow-green. DICKSONIACEAE

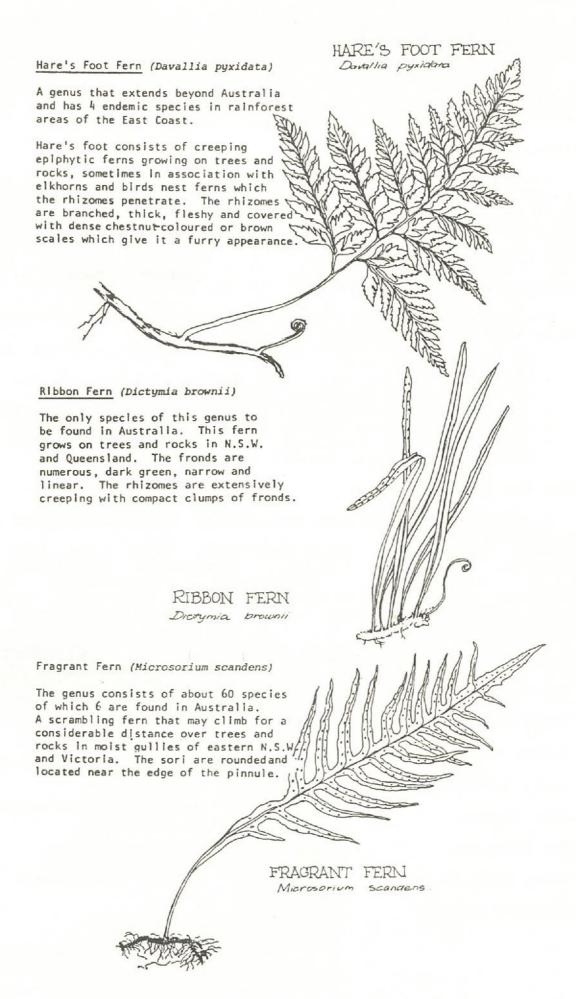


Gristle Fern (Blechnum cartilagineum)

A large species with light green fronds with wavy edges, occurring on the edge of the rainforest. A very hardy fern.



GRISTLE FERN Blechnum carrilaginaum.



SOCIETY NEWS

* New Book on Australian Ferns:

"Handbook for Ferns for Australia and New Zealand" by Chris Goudey, published by Lothian Press, 1988. This book, 212 pages long, contains details on about 530 fern species, together with numerous b/w and colour photographs. There is also a unique section on localities in each State and in N.Z. where best to see the ferns described. The book may be available for sale at our next meeting, or alternatively orders will be taken. Member's price - \$14.50.

* Slide Bank:

John Hodges has taken over the slide bank, which now includes over 400 slides. These slides are available on loan to members who wish to give talks on ferns. John wishes to expand the library and would be most grateful to hear from members, who can loan him more slides on ferns and fern habitats. They will be duplicated and promptly returned.

* Additions to the Library:

The following new arrivals to the library are now available for monthly loan at each meeting:

* Fern Society of South Australia Newsletter, No.89, July and

No.90, August, 1988.

* Muelleria, 6 (6), Feb. 1988. This publication is the Journal of the National Herbarium of Victoria.

* The British Pteridological Society Bulletin, 3(4), 1987. * South Florida Fern Society Bulletin, 16(6), June 1988.

* Gardening News, June/July, 1988. This is the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria.

* From the August Meeting:

A selection of the more interesting ferns offered for sale at that meeting were: Asplenium aetheopicum, A.australasicum (from Lord Howe Is.), A.lepturus, A.lyalli, A.milnei, A.monathes, A.polyodon simlplifrons, L.H.I.), A.rutifolium, Arachnoides vulcanicum, Cheilanthes multifida, Cyathea macarthuri, Dryopteris labordei, Lastreopsis greyii, Osmunda schraderii cv.contorta Polystichum oncolobatum.

Maxicrop

Special Effort Winners:

- 1. Jean Boucher,
- 2. Roman Anulewicz,
- 3. Goerge Start,
- 4. Barry Gesthuizen,
- 5. Joan Taylor,
- 6. Ray Harrison,
- 7. Barry Gesthuizen
- 8. Margaret Radley.

"Goodness from the sea"

- * Contains over 60 elements and minerals
- * Safe and easy to use.
- * Made from fresh growing seaweed.
- * Ideally suited for ferns
- * Maxicrop is available from nurseries and other places where garden products are sold.

Maxicrop

4/375 Bayswater Rd., Bayswater. Vic. 3153. P.O. BOX 302, Bayswater, Vic. 3153. Tel. Melb. (03) 720 2200

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 1987-88

Although we had to change our venue twice during the past year our society has continued to enjoy excellent meetings. With high quality guest speakers Geoff Connellen, Dr. H. Willis, and Philip Hicks as well as excellent talks by society members Chris Goudey, Albert Jenkins, Mary Frost and Dorothy Forte our attendance has retained a high level.

Our excursion to Sylvia Marsh's Nursery at Horsham proved very enjoyable and our fern displays at "Expo 50 Plus" and Nunawading "Gardening Made Easy" during Elderly Citizens week were excellent promotions for our society.

COMMITTEE

Our committee again functioned very effectively with excellent attendance at all meetings. Although Derek Griffiths had resigned as Secretary he continued in a temporary capacity and served our society very well. John Oliver our Vice-President again kept our membership mailing list in order and Albert Ward, Treasurer, assured us our financial state would be healthy. Minute Secretary and Librarian David Radford was most thorough in these positions.

John Hodges took over as Slide Bank Manager, assisted with fern sales and in many other ways to keep our society running smoothly.

Terry Turney and Bernadette Blackstock took care of fern sales and contributed greatly in committee work. Margaret Radley and Joy Horman, our Special Effort Hostesses, proved a very reliable team and Jean Trudgeon has kept in personal touch with all membership movements.

SOCIETY SERVICES

The following members although not on our Committee, play a very important role in our society. Barry White our Book Sales Manager, Joel Machar - Spore Bank Manager, Albert Jenkins, discounted sales of Maxicrop products for members. Jean Boucher and Beth Ward, our Supper Hostesses always have that hot cuppa ready as an enjoyable finale to our evening.

PATHOLOGY AND IDENTIFICATION TABLE

Chris Goudey has continued to lead this very important section of our meetings with his great knowledge and expertise we have come to know and respect. Chris also is Excursion Manager.

NEWSLETTER

The high standard of our newsletter is due to the dedication of our production team Mac Gregory (until he entered hospital for spinal surgery) Maureen Verhagen, Jean Trudgeon, Margaret Radley and Kath Brown. Doug Thomas has continued to transcribe our Speaker Reports in his inimitable way and with interesting material supplied by several society members I'm sure that all who receive our newsletter would agree that it is an excellent publication.

Sincere thanks to all these dedicated people as I now retire as your President I would like to express my appreciation to all who have made the past three years so enjoyable for me. My hope is that our society will continue to grow and promote the enjoyment of one of the most graceful of all plants. The Fern.

Your President Keith Hutchinson

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1988

Members Funds	1987	1988
As at 1st, July 1986 & 1987 Add Surplus for 1987 (Less Deficit	13,682.08	16,461.08
for 1988)	826.61	(883.39)
	\$14,508.69	15,577.69
Add Assets purchased 1987	1,952.39	
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	\$16,461.08	15,577.69
Represented by:-		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	3,453.31	2,028.84
Cash on Deposit - Investment Acc.	10,520.77	11,500.85
Cash on hand - Fern sales & Stock	100.00	100.00
	14,074.08	13,629.69
Fixed Assets		
Library - Less depreciation Plant & equipment	381.00	343.00
- Less depreciation	2,006.00	1,605.00
	2,387.00	1,948.00
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$16,461.08	\$15,577.69

The following financial statements for the period ending 30th June 1988 are also available to members on request from the Treasurer:

- i) Statement of Receipts and Payments,
- ii) Book Sales Balance Sheet and Trading Account.
- iii) Fern Show Trading Account and
 - iv) Audit statement by McDonald Carter, Chartered Accountants.

NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont.):

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the Society has agreed to take part in two Shows in October, one at Ferntree Gully and one at Nunawading (see page 5 for details). Bill Taylor is coordinating our activities for the former and Derek Griffiths for the latter. Both events are expected to draw large attendances, thus giving both good publicity for our Society and opportunities for participating members to make fruitful and enjoyable contacts with members of other organizations.

Bob Lee

New Committee of Management:

President:

Immed. Past President:

Vice-Presidents:

Secretary: Treasurer:

Committee Members:

Robert Lee Keith Hutchinson John Oliver, Terry Turney

Bernadette Blackstock

Albert Ward Andre Cleghorn, John Hodges, Joy Horman, Joel Macher, David Radford,

M.Radley.

Functional Positions:

Minute Secretary Membership Secretary

Librarian Book Sales Spore Bank Slide Bank Fern Sales

Excursions Manager

Fern Table

Show Committee Chairman R.Lee

Property Officer Special Effort

Supper Hostesses

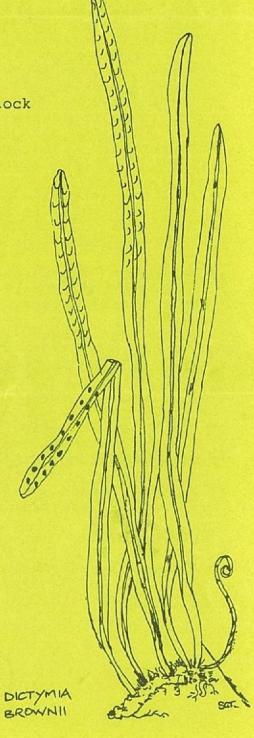
Publications Editor Newsletter Typists

Newsletter Pasteup Newsletter Despatch

D.Radford J.Oliver D.Radford D.Griffiths B.White J. Hodges B.Blackstock T. Turney C.Goudey C. Goudey J.Oliver

J. Horman M.Radley J.Boucher N. Hodges T. Turney M. Verhagen J. Taylor S. Turney

K.Brown M.Radley J. Trudgeon



BUYERS GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIES

Victoria

- * Allans Flat Plant Farm Retail.
 Tomkins Lane, Allans Flat, 3691, Ph:(060) 27 1375.
 (25Km south of Wodonga on the Yackandandah Road)
 Specializing in ferns and indoor plants. Open daily, except Wednesdays, and all public holidays.
- * Austral Ferns Wholesale Propagators. Ph:(052) 82 3084. Specializing in supplying retail nurseries with a wide range of hardy ferns no tubes.
- * Beasley's Nursery Retail. 195 Warrandyte Road, Doncaster East, 3109. Ph:(03) 844 3355.
- * Cool Waters Fern Nursery Wholesale Fern Propagators. Beech Forest, 3237, Ph:(052) 37 3283. Specializing in cool climate native ferns.
- * Fern Acres Nursery Retail.
 Kingslake West, 3757, Ph:(057) 86 5481.
 (On main road, opposite Kingslake West Primary School).
 Specializing in stags, elks and birdsnest ferns.
- * "Fern Glen" Wholesale and Retail. Visitors welcome. Garfield North, 3814, Ph:(056) 29 2375.
- * R. & M. Fletcher's Fern Nursery Retail.
 62 Walker Road, Seville, 3139, Ph:(059) 64 4680.
 (Look for sign on Warburton Highway, 300m east of Seville Shopping Centre. Closed Tues. except on public holidays).
- * Mt Evelyn Fern Centre Retail.
 63 York Road, Mt. Evelyn, 3796, Ph:(03) 736 1729.
 Mail orders welcome.
- * Ridge Road Fernery Wholesale and Retail. Weeaproinah, 3237, Ph:(052) 35 9383. Specializing in Otway native ferns.

New South Wales

- * Jim & Beryl Geekie Fern Nursery Retail. 6 Nelson Street, Thornleigh, 2120, Ph:(02) 484 2684. By appointment.
- * Marley's Ferns Retail.
 5 Seaview Street, Mt. Kuring-gai, 2080, Ph:(02) 457 9168.

Queensland

* Morans Highway Nursery - Wholesale and Retail. P.O. Box 467, Woombye, 4559, Ph:(071) 42 1613. (1Km north of Big Pinapple. Turn right into Kell Road).

