



THE
FERN SOCIETY

OF
VICTORIA

Inc.

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST: PUBLICATION No. VBH3411

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 9, OCTOBER, 1988.

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 45,
Heidelberg West, Victoria, Australia, 3084

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Single - \$13.00 (Pensioner/Student - \$9.00);
 Family - \$16.00 (Pensioners - \$11.00);
 Overseas - A\$25.00 (by Airmail).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

At the September Meeting, Chris Goudey both entertained and educated us with a showing of slides taken on his trip to Bouganville and Papua New Guinea. Shots of lush fern scenes were interspersed with items of local interest and enlivened by Chris' commentary. That expedition, which he made alone, has enthused Chris to the extent that he is investigating the possibility of having a Fern Society trip there next year - for reasonably fit people who don't mind roughing it a bit! Details will be published later, but in the meantime don't forget to book early for the trip to Norma's Fernery if you plan to go.

One of the items in the Society News section is about the setting up of Fern Study groups. Increased knowledge of any subject increases the pleasure derived from participation in it. Similarly, more detailed knowledge of fern characteristics will not only be a source of satisfaction in itself, but will increase our understanding of how particular ferns grow, and hence, improve our success rate in cultivating them. Please let the Committee know whether you would be interested in such activities and any suggestions you may have for implementing them.

Don't forget the two shows in October, in which we will be participating (details on page 8) and you will notice that there will be one at Wangaratta in November. Offers of help would be appreciated by the organizers. One of the side benefits of being on our own stand at a Show is the chance to see the displays put on by other organizations and there will be many of these at the Ferntree Gully and Nunawading shows.

Bob Lee



NEXT MEETING

"SOILS AND GROWING MEDIA"

by ROSS HALL

on THURSDAY, 13th OCTOBER, 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. October General Meeting
- 8.30 p.m. Talk by Ross Hall,
Senior Lecturer at
V.C.A.H., Burnley,
- 9.30 p.m. Fern Pathology and Identification Table.
Special Effort.
- 9.45 p.m. Supper.
- 10.00 p.m. Close
-



SPEAKER REPORT - September Meeting.

Speaker - Chris Goudey.

Topic - "Ferns of Bouganville and New Guinea".

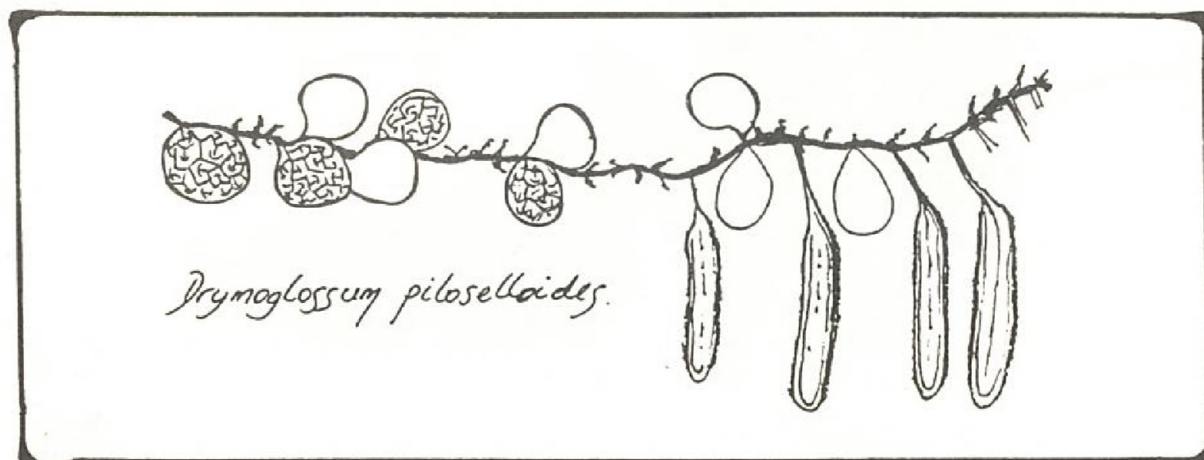
Chris introduced his topic by stating, that like most fern enthusiasts, he had particular fern favourites and that high on his list is the genus *Leptopteris* - one species of which is *L. fraseri*, regarded by many as the most beautiful fern in the world.

There are seven species of *Leptopteris* and Chris' main purpose in going to New Guinea and Bouganville was to try to find several of these growing in their native habitats. To illustrate the beauty of this genus, Chris displayed pressed frond specimens of each species. These were *L. wilkesiana*, *L. alpina*, *L. laxa*, *L. hymenophylloides*, *L. superba*, *L. moorei* and *L. fraseri*. Chris told us that each species grew luxuriantly in its native habitat, in time developing a trunk similar to that of the tree ferns.

The screening of colour slides began with a selection taken in Bouganville. Among them was a spectacular *Merinthosorus drynarioides* complete with long filiform fertile tips on the ends of the fronds. Chris said, that although these ferns grew easily and abundantly in the tropics, they are extremely difficult to maintain in temperate Victoria. Ferns also grew lavishly on tree trunks or virtually any other surface which afforded a suitable roothold. *Davallia*, *Humata*, *Blechnum* and *Lycopodium* were among the genera observed. The species of *Blechnum* were particularly attractive with flushes of bright red fronds.

On climbing a mountain in an attempt to reach Kupei gold-fields, Chris was able to photograph the terrain and fern habitats of the local rain forest. The dominant fern shown in these slides was a magnificent tree fern in the genus, *Sphaeropteris* (*Cyathea*). *Ophioglossum pendulum* (ribbon fern), an enormous *Lygodium*, *Lycopodium squarrosus* (water tassel-fern) smothering tree branches, *Aglaomorpha heraclea*, *Davallia denticulata* and *Drymoglossum piloselloides* (1) were ferns sighted in these hot mountain climes. The betel-nut palm was also shown with Chris explaining the method by which the indigenous people processed the nuts to make a potent and dangerous drug.

In New Guinea, Chris travelled by air to Port Moresby, then across to Lae, taking excursions to Mount Kaindi, near Wau and the Ekuti Ranges near Bulolo. Sighted on these trips were communities of *Adiantum raddianum*, which Chris believed to an escape from a private collection. Also noted were *Sphenomeris chinensis* (2), *Cyathea contaminans*, *Oleandra* spp. and *Todea papuana* (3).



SPEAKER REPORT

Chris had included slides of interest other than those of ferns. These included many beautiful native rhododendrons in various colours and a great array of epiphytic orchids. A primitive method of burial, practised by an Ekuti Ranges tribe, was also shown. In this, the corpses were smoked, encased in a funnel-shaped framework of bamboo and placed upright in caves!

Chris' photographs also showed many happy-faced native children and the idyllic fern-lined creeks in which they frolicked. Among the animals he screened were the possum-like, cuscus, and a species of tree kangaroo. Of particular interest to bird observers were slides of the eclectus parrot; a bird whose dimorphic colour variation between the sexes had ornithologists baffled until fairly recently. The female is a bright red and blue, whilst the male is totally different in an all-over brilliant green. Photographs of eerie moss forests also provided great interest.

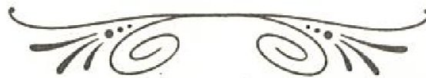
At Goroka, Chris visited father Norman Crutwell of the Mount Gahavisuka Provincial Park and Orchid Gardens. Here Chris found a magnificent collection of native orchids and among the ferns was an outstanding filmy fern, *Hymenophyllum imbricatum*, an attractive tree fern, *Cyathea procera*, a miniature tree fern, *Sphaerostephanos ?brassei* (4), and the species of maidenhair, *Adiantum novoguineense* and *A.philippense*.

Chris concluded his talk with slides of Port Morseby and Lae, and gave some indication of costs, facilities and likely accommodation if the Society chose to go on an expedition there.

Our president, Bob Lee, thanked Chris for his entertaining talk - members were enthusiastic in support.

by Doug Thomas

P.S. This talk is available to members on audio cassette for \$5 including postage and packing.



[Editor's note. -

1. *Drymoglossum* consists of about 6 species, distributed from Madagascar to P.N.G. This genus is sometimes included with *Pryossia*, but differs in having linear continuous sori, whereas the sori of *Pyrossia* are usually round and separate. Both genera are epiphytic, with dimorphic fronds and long, creeping rhizomes.
2. *Sphenomeris*, with about 15 species, are small tropical ferns, related to *Lindsaea*. *S.chinensis* is hardy as far south as Melbourne.
3. The species was first reported in 1968. This and *T.barbara*, make up the only members of the primitive genus, *Todea*. Both have green short-lived spores.
4. The genus, *Sphaerostephanos* is part of the 1000 or so ferns in the thelypteroid family, which have proven very difficult to classify. This particular genus, with about 180 members, is partly characterized by small yellow glands on the fronds.]

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

FERNS IN THE FOREST

epiphitic ferns

Epiphytes are plants that rely on other plants for support but otherwise do not interfere with their growth. Because they grow on the trunks and branches of trees epiphytes face unusual problems. They are specially adapted to retain water and nutrients and most, to withstand drought. For nutrients, epiphytes have to rely on the regular fall and decomposition of leaf litter. Some, such as Stag Horns, have brackets hanging out from the tree to collect the litter and moisture. Others grow in branch angles where a certain amount of litter and moisture collects.

Ferns (Polypodiaceae)

Some of the common ones on this walk include:

Bird's Nest Fern (Crow's Nest) (*Asplenium nidus*)

This genus of mainly terrestrial ferns is widely distributed beyond Australia with 20 endemic species. Bird's Nest fern is found in Eastern N.S.W. as well as from Polynesia to India. It grows as an epiphyte nestling in the branches of trees or on rocks. The sori (clusters of spore containers) are seen as straight brown rows on the underside of the leaf. Refer to STOP 9. ASPLENIACEAE

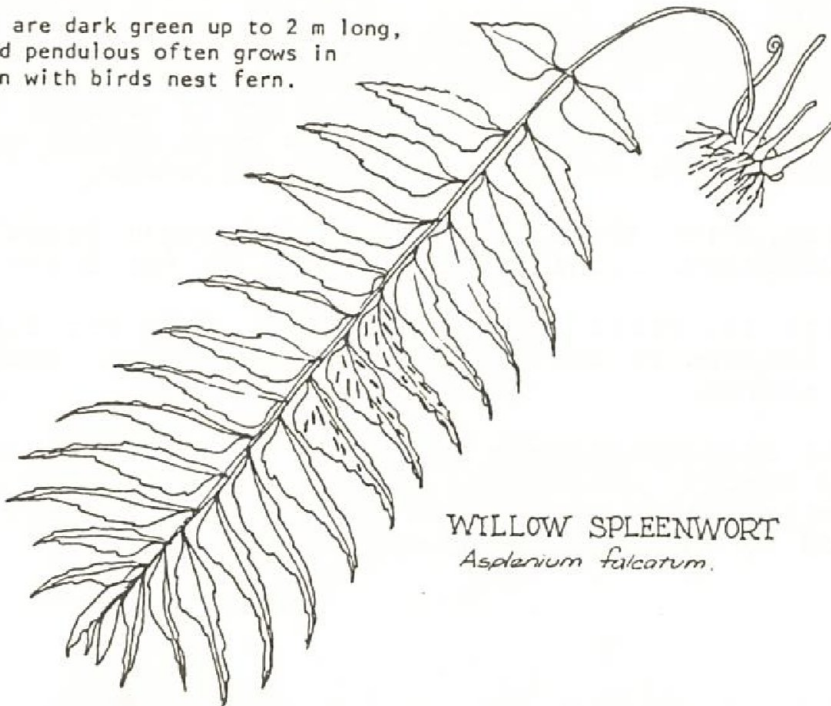


BIRD'S NEST
FERN

Asplenium nidus.

Willow Spleenwort (*Asplenium falcatum*)

The fronds are dark green up to 2 m long, pinnate and pendulous often grows in association with birds nest fern.



WILLOW SPLEENWORT

Asplenium falcatum.

Elkhorn Fern (*Platycerium bifurcatum*)

This genus extends beyond Australia and has about 4 local species in N.S.W. and Queensland growing in rainforest and moist forest areas. Elkhorns are amongst the most beautiful and extraordinary ferns. They occur on rocks and trees frequently encircling branches and trunks to form a massive clump. The barren fronds are rounded or convex while fertile fronds are pendulous and up to one metre long. This fern is made up of numerous individual plantlets which cling together creating the appearance of a single plant.

The sori are seen as brown petal marks on the underside of the pendant fronds.

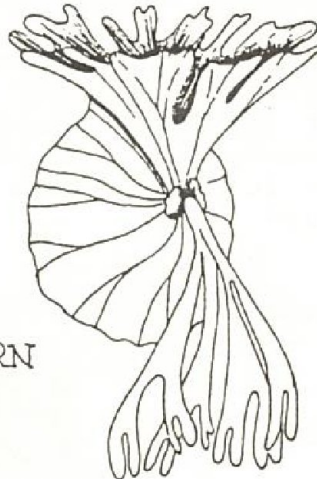


ELK HORN FERN
Platycerium bifurcatum

Staghorn Fern (*Platycerium superbum*)

The largest of the genus occurring in similar situations to the elkhorn.

The fertile fronds are 1-2 m long and pendant in pairs with staghorn like divisions. The sori are seen as large brown patches formed on the underside of the fronds.



STAGHORN FERN
Platycerium superbum

Propagation

Ferns may be propagated by spores or by vegetative means.

Vegetative propagation is simple and often more successful than raising plants from spores.

For further information refer to 'Ferns and Fern Allies' - a publication of the Department of Agriculture.

SOCIETY NEWS:

* Excursions:

During the coming warmer months the Society would like to organize some day trips around Melbourne. These could be held on weekends and perhaps be combined with a picnic. Such outings have been popular in the past and some of the more successful ones would be worth repeating. Please let any of the Committee know if you would like to see more of this type of activity in the future, or have some favourite locality which you feel might be suitable.

* Norma's Fernery:

Last month we announced the impending closure of Norma's Fernery (Ph: 057-295516) at Carboor and our plans for a bus trip there on 5th November. Although she will definitely not be selling her excellent private fern collection before the 5th November, she has already begun progressively discounting her retail stock with a view to having it all marked down by 5th November and anticipates trading into December to quit all stock.

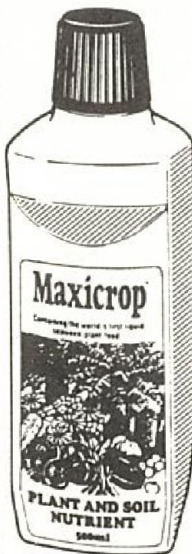
For further bookings please contact Chris Goudey by phone, 052-823084, or preferably at the next meeting with your \$5 deposit.

* Fern Study Groups:

As we are a specialist society, the Committee feels that we ought to be more actively promoting our mutual interest in ferns in as many ways as possible. Many similar societies have done this by setting up small study groups, which meet regularly, usually in members' homes. If they wish they can report on their studies at one of the monthly meetings. There are many possible interesting fern topics which could form the basis for a Study Group. Examples are the characteristics of a particular genus (maidenhairs, Asplenium, tree ferns etc), special growing techniques, fern allies, taxonomy, conservation of fern environments - the list of topics is endless but the choice of topic is yours! All that is required to set up a Study Group is at least two people with a common interest and a desire to learn more. We will be discussing this at future meetings, so give it some thought and make your society more than just a garden club!

* Special Effort Winners:

1. Norma Hodges
2. Terry Fuhrmeister
3. Anne Bryant
4. Kevin Tinker
5. Fran Harrison
6. Ray Harrison
7. Jean Trudgeon
8. Robert Lee
9. Margaret Radley



Maxicrop

"Goodness from the sea"

- * Contains over 60 elements and minerals
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- * Made from fresh growing seaweed.
- * Ideally suited for ferns
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SOCIETY NEWS

* Forthcoming Shows:

Don't forget The Stringybark Festival, on the weekend of 15-16th October in the Ferntree Gully Community Centre (on the Burwood Hwy, opposite the Swagman Restaurant). The Society's display will be held outside but under cover, so if you can loan any hardy ferns, especially natives, please contact Bill Taylor (Ph: 754 8275) for further details. Helpers are still required to staff the stall and hand out leaflets etc. Sellers, please note that both Australian and exotic plants can be sold.

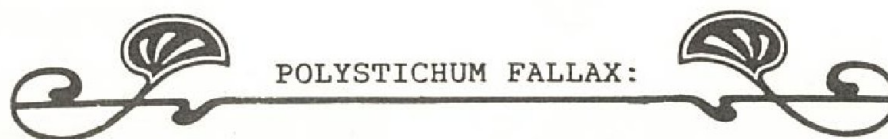
The Bicentennial Display being organized by the Vermont Horticultural Society and the Nunawading Council will be held in the Nunawading Horticultural Centre, 88 Jolimont Road, on the weekend of the 22-23rd October. Along with about 10 other societies, the Fern Society plans to exhibit and sell plants. The show is open Sat. 1-6 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. There will be a Society display (offers of ferns on loan are needed) and a large stall for plant sales. Please contact Derek Griffiths (Ph: 336 3157) with your offers of assistance and bookings for fern sales.

For our country members in northern Victoria, Wangaratta Garden Club is holding a pot plant show on Sunday, 6th November, in the Town Hall, Ford Street, Wangaratta, between noon and 4.30 p.m. Among the various sections are ones for Adiantum, for Nephrolepis, for Davallia and for any other fern type. Further details may be obtained from Mrs. G.Frost (Ph: 057-269287).

* From the September Meeting:

A selection of the more interesting ferns offered for sale at that meeting were:

Adiantum reniforme, Angiopteris evecta, Asplenium flabellifolium, A.flaccidum, A.monathes, Athyrium drepinopteris, Blechnum colensoi, B.penna-marina, B.pattersoni, B.vulcanicum, Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia, Davallia canariensis, D.tasmanii, Lästreopsis calantha, Microsorium scandens, Paesia scaberula, Pteris macilentia.



POLYSTICHUM FALLAX:

At September meeting's fern table, Chris Goudey was able to show us an authentic specimen of the rare Australian shield fern, Polystichum fallax. This is one of four Polystichum species found in S.E. Australia, the others being P.proliferum, P.australiense, P.formosum. Its distribution is much more limited than the other species, mainly preferring the drier inland slopes in the ranges of northern N.S.W. and S.E. Queensland (between Toowoomba, Narrabri and Tamworth). P.fallax differs from P.proliferum and P.australiense in not producing plantlets at the tips of its fronds, and from P.formosum in having slightly different scales and pinnae as well as lighter coloured spore.

[Ref. M.D.Tindale, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 80, 54 (1955)]

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING

30TH JUNE, 1988

RECEIPTS	1987	1988
Library	11.00	-
Membership - (Less Refund \$8)	3,388.44	2,284.67
Spore bank	53.00	220.30
Commission on plant sales	381.76	319.50
Interest - Current Account	10.74	91.13
- Investment Account	1,103.14	980.38
Badge sales	13.50	
Special efforts	437.80	440.05
Advertising - Newsletter	500.00	240.00
S.G.A.P. - Commission on sales	213.15	
Glass sales		350.00
Tea money	10.50	40.00
Journal sales	40.50	114.00
Proceeds Garden Festival		13.70
Show proceeds	4,100.00	NIL
TOTAL RECEIPTS	10,263.53	5,093.73

PAYMENTS

Pricing guns	211.20	
Amplifier system	1,635.84	
Publication "What To Do With Ferns"	395.00	395.00
Newsletter	3,546.07	2,331.00
Postage & P.O. Box rental	1,077.06	860.26
Audit Fees		300.00
Special effort tickets	23.76	20.74
Corporate Affairs	21.00	22.00
Badges & Name Tags	21.00	50.00
Meeting hall rental	510.00	220.00
Honourariums - Newsletter	500.00	400.00
Labels - Newsletter	18.00	
Slide Bank	105.35	
Speaker gratuities & Tapes	221.00	117.88
Secretary & executive expenses	172.55	249.94
Spagnum moss - (plant sales)	105.00	50.00
Show Ground rental		80.00
Glasses	180.40	360.65
Subscription R.H.S. & L.A.T.F.S.	82.54	37.14
Federal & State Duties & Bank Fees	20.16	43.51
Repairs - Projector	89.60	
Depreciation on assets	501.39	439.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9,436.92	5,977.12

SURPLUS OR DEFICIT **\$826.61** **(\$883.39)**

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1988

Summary of significant Accounting Policies.

The financial Statements prepared in accordance with historical cost convention. The Accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year.

(a) Depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight time basis so as to write off the net cost of each fixed asset during its expected life.

(b) Income Tax

The society is a non profit organisation and is exempt from Income Tax under section 23(H) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

AUDIT REPORT

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

MEICHAEL CARTER

W.C. KEENAN F.L.A.

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

BOOK SALES BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	1987	1988
Cash on hand	24.30	21.20
Cash at bank	1,485.60	1,772.13
Stock on hand	1,548.54	1,468.28
	3,058.44	3,261.61
LIABILITIES		
Creditors	NIL	NIL
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$3,058.44	\$3,261.61
CAPITAL		
Accumulated funds 1/7/86 & 1/7/87	2,070.57	3,058.44
Add net proceeds	987.87	203.17
Total accumulated funds	\$3,058.44	\$3,261.61

BOOK SALES TRADING ACCOUNT

	1987	1988
Sales	3,688.49	1,386.70
Cost of sales		
Stock 1/7/86 & 1/7/87	1,138.52	1,548.54
	4,081.07	2,654.08
Less Stock 30/6/87 & 30/6/88	1,548.54	1,468.28
	2,532.53	1,185.80
Gross proceeds	1,155.96	200.90
Less - Federal & State tax	29.39	29.05
- Postages	138.70	81.15
	168.09	110.20
Interest Received	NIL	112.47
Net Surplus	\$987.87	\$203.17

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

FERN SHOW TRADING STATEMENT

Receipts	1987	1988
Door	2,305.65	
Plant sales commission	2,774.26	
Refreshments	56.09	
Interest		3.07
Total Receipts	5,136.00	3.07
Expenses		
Bank charges & taxes	35.86	1.98
Show expenses	910.62	
Total expenses	946.48	1.98
Net proceeds from the show	4,189.52	\$1.09
Less		
Remittance to General Account	4,100.00	NIL
Bank balance 30/06/88	\$89.52	\$90.64

SPORE BANK:

Ordering: The following spore is free to those who make donations of spore. Alternatively, members - 20 cents each, non-members - 50 cents. Available at meetings or by mail (please add \$1.00 for p.and p.). There is no charge to overseas members, but to defray postage, 3 International Reply Coupons would be appreciated.

Adiantum caudatum	3/87	Cystopteris dickieana	7/86
Adiantum peruvianum	6/87	Dicksonia antarctica	3/87
Adiantum raddianum cultivars		Dicksonia fibrosa	3/86
"crested majus"	3/87	Dicksonia lanata	-/86
"delicatulum"	3/86	Dicksonia squarrosa	3/86
"gracillium"	3/87	Diplazium australe	3/87
"grandiceps"	3/87	Doryopteris pedata	2/87
"grossum"	3/87	Drynaria rigidula	4/86
"lady supreme"	3/86	Dryopteris affinis	
"mathewsii"	3/87	var "polydactyla"	-/87
"pacific maid"	3/86	D. carthusiana,"crested"	3/86
"victoria's elegance"	3/87	D. dilatata,"lepidota"	2/87
"weigani"	3/87	D. felix-mas,"christata"	3/86
Aglaomorpha heraclea	6/87	D. felix-mas,"grandiceps"	3/86
Anemia phyllitidis	-/86	Dryopteris inequalis	4/87
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum	-/86	Dryopteris sp. (Korea)	3/86
Asplenium australasicum	8/86	Hypolepis rugulosa	3/87
Asplenium bulbiferum	1/87	Hypolepis punctata	3/86
Asplenium onopteris	-/86	Lastreopsis calantha	3/86
Asplenium trichomanes	1/86	Lunathryium japonicum	4/87
A. trichomanes,"incisum"	-/87	Microlepis speluncae	3/86
Asplenium viride	-/87	Microlepis strigosa	2/87
Asplenium vittaeformis	3/87	Onoclea sensibilis	-
Asplenium sp.		Paesia scaberula	7/86
(nidus? West Irian)	-/87	Pellaea rotundifolia	2/87
Athyrium felix-femina		Pellaea viridis	-/86
var. "cristata"	-/86	Phyllitis scolopendrium	-/87
Athyrium schimperii	3/87	Pityrogramma chrysophylla	3/86
Belvisia mucronata	3/86	Platycerum bifurcatum	3/87
Belvisia platyrynches	6/87	Platycerum hillii	4/86
Blechnum capense	-/86	P. willinkii,"Payton"	-
Blechnum discolor	-/86	Platycerum sp. (Timor)	-/87
Blechnum fluviatile	3/87	Polypodium formosanum	9/86
Blechnum giganteum	3/86	Polypodium vulgare	4/86
Blechnum minus	3/86	Polystichum echinatum	2/87
Blechnum spicant	3/86	Polystichum formosum	3/87
Blechnum tabulare	4/87	P. retroso-paleacum	3/86
Cibotium glaucum	8/86	Polystichum setiferum	
Cibotium schiedei	11/86	var. "falcatum Dyce"	3/86
Culcita dubia	4/86	Pteris biaurita	3/86
Cyathea brownii	2/86	Pteris cretica,"parkerii"	3/87
Cyathea cooperi	3/87	P.quadriaurita,"argyraea"	3/87
C. cooperi(black scales)	2/86	Pteris tremula	3/87
C. cooperi(glaucous form)	-/86	Pteris tricolor	3/87
Cyathea dealbata	3/87	Pteris vittata	3/87
Cyathea medullaris	3/87	var. "Cape form"	3/87
Cyathea sp. (New Guinea)	2/86	Thelypteris patens	
Cyathea sp. (Vanuatu)	6/86	var. "lepida"	3/87
Cyrtomium falcatum	3/87	Woodwardia fimbriata	-/86
C. falcatum x caryotideum	-/86	Unknown sp. (China)	-/87



BUYER'S 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.
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