



**THE
FERN SOCIETY**

**OF
VICTORIA**

Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, Number 9, September 1989

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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	Terry Turney		- 211 8169
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Spore Bank Manager:	Barry White		- 337 9793
Membership Secretary:	John Oliver		- 879 1976
Editor:	Terry Turney		- 211 8169
Book Sales:	Derek Griffiths		- 336 3157

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Subscriptions: single - \$13.00 (Pensioner/Student -\$9.00);
Family - \$16.00 (Pensioners - \$11.00);
Overseas - A\$30.00 (by Airmail).
(Subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year)

President's Message:

Our long-awaited return to the Herbarium finally became a reality in August, and our 10th Annual General Meeting and August Gernal Meeting (10th Birthday Celebration) were duly held.

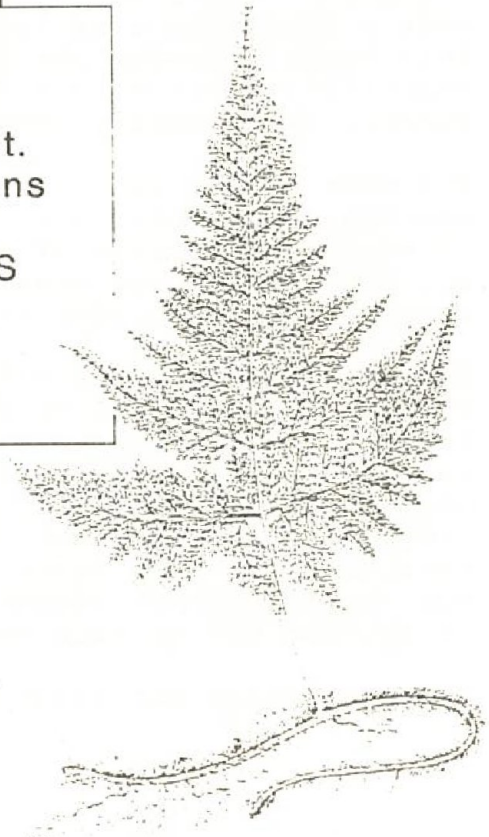
Notable amongst the 92 people present were our inaugural Secretary, Irene Bolster, and her husband Ted, who was on the 1980/81 Executive Committee. It was good to see also a number of ex-members and members who have not been at meetings for some time, who came in response to special invitations. Several members made long trips to be at the meeting, including Barry Hubbard from Parkes in N.S.W., Mary and Garnet Frost from Wangaratta, Beulah Powell from Shepparton and Jack Williamson from Morwell.

The A.G.M. produced only one change in the composition of the Committee of Management, with Janet McLennan replacing Joel Machar as Committee Member. The rest of the Committee remains as listed in the Annual Report later in this Newsletter, except that Bernadette Blackstock can only continue as Secretary for a very short time. Benadette's pending retirement from the position was well advertised prior to the A.G.M., but no nomination for the position was received. Action to resolve this situation will have to be decided urgently by the Committee; in the meantime, members are again asked to consider whether they can assist in the role.

continued....

NEXT MEETING

at 7.30 p.m., Thursday, 14th Sept.
at the Herbarium, Botanic Gardens
Birdwood Ave, South Yarra
FERNS THROUGH THE AGES
by
Dr. Jack Douglas



PROGRAM:

- 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. - Dr. Jack Douglas
"Ferns Through The Ages"
- 9.30 p.m. - Fern Pathology and Identification Table.
Special Effort.
- 9.45 p.m. - Supper.
- 10.00 p.m. - Close

Cont..

Those other members of the Society not on the Committee who have been carrying out various important functions (see Annual Report for details) have all kindly agreed to continue their work for the coming year. We have also decided to re-institute the position of Publicity Officer so as to increase public awareness of our Society. Derek Griffiths has kindly agreed to fill this position in addition to his role as Book Sales Manager.

During the August General Meeting which followed the A.G.M, Chris Goudey and Albert Jenkins gave talks on the formation and early days of the Society. These are reported later.

This was followed by the conferring of a Life Membership on Keith Hutchinson in recognition of his major contribution to the progress of the Society, which began with membership of the first Executive Committee. He became Editor of the Newsletter in 1979 and held this position until 1985, became a Vice-President for two years from the first A.G.M. in 1980 and was President for the period August 1985 to July 1988. In his recent position as Immediate Past President he has continued to work tirelessly for the good of the Society. Thank you very much, Keith, for your efforts, and heartiest congratulations on your well deserved honour.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Continued.....

Another recognition of service to the Society was made with the presentation to Mavis Potter of a plate with fern decorations (by Jean Trudgeon). Mavis was a foundation member of our Society and has made a Christmas cake for members at every December meeting. For this August meeting she baked a large birthday cake, which was beautifully iced with a fern motif by Beth Ward. Just prior to the supper, they jointly performed a ceremonial cutting of the cake.

The door prizes and 10th Anniversary Raffle were drawn during the meeting and winners are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. The scheduled door prize of garden products was provided by the Society, but George Start kindly donated as a second prize a huge complex tree fern planter. Thanks very much, George.

The evening concluded with a champagne supper (thanks to all who brought along plates of food), during which conversation flowed freely with much reminiscing on past happenings. On leaving, everyone was presented with a Society glass specially produced to commemorate our first 10 years (another Keith Hutchinson creation - thanks, Keith). One of these glasses will be made available to every Society member who can arrange collection of it, but regrettably, we cannot offer to undertake the work and expense of sending one to each member.

That concludes our first decade - now on with the second!

Best regards,
Bob Lee



SPECIAL EFFORT WINNERS
10th BIRTHDAY

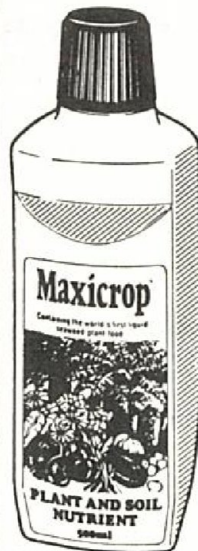
DOOR PRIZE:

1st Prize winner: Barry Gestthuijz
2nd Prize Winner: Pam Phillips
-donated by George Start-

MAJOR RAFFLE WINNERS

1st : Maurren Woollett Como West
2nd : Betty Allgood Emerald
3rd : Bev Gaskell Eaglehawk
4th : C & L Goudey Lara
5th : C & L Goudey Lara
6th : Sharon Taylor Venala

CONGRATULATIONS ALL



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"Goodness from the sea"

- * Contains over 60 elements and minerals
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- * 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

REPORT OF 10th ANNIVERSARY MEETING

First Speaker: Chris Goudey. First President and Honorary Life Member of the Fern Society of Victoria.

Title : The First Ten Years.

The Fern Society began as a result of a seeking for information among interested individuals. From these individuals a pre-inaugural Committee was formed, in addition to which publicity was given by the Melbourne "Sun" Newspaper. The public response to this publicity encouraged organisers to go ahead with a formal launch of the Fern Society in 1979.

Chris paid tribute to the highly valued formative work of Irene Bolster, Ian Buckmaster, Albert Jenkins and Keith Hutchinson. He also said that the Society, once formed moved very quickly into a wide range of activities - these included library, spore bank, Newsletter, fern sales, special efforts, Society badges, our own annual fern show, our first and only "Fern Journal" publication, fern displays at various venues, an interstate Speaker scheme and an excellent program of wide ranging field excursions.

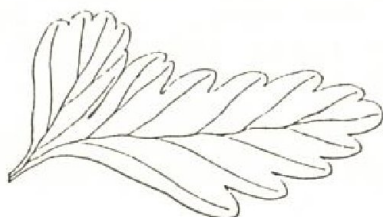
Chris praised the work of the Society's Officers throughout the first ten years and drew a comparison between ourselves and the British Pteridological Society which will soon celebrate one hundred years of activity.

Out ten foundation years have been sound and well ordered - we should all feel confident that we too will continue operating for a very long time.

Second Speaker: Albert Jenkins. Honorary Life Member. Member of the first Executive Committee, former Treasurer and Vice-President of the Fern Society.

Albert's talk was based on reminiscences gleaned from very early publications of the Fern Society Newsletters. He referred to his personal involvement and interest in setting up fern displays and described the many venues at which these displays were staged. He also referred to the appointment of the first Society Member to be invited to give a talk on behalf of the Society - that member was Ian Buckmaster who made light of the journey to Mooropna - 187 kilometres north of Melbourne.

Albert said that he had enjoyed his involvement with the Fern Society immensely and that it was his hope that it would continue to provide entertainment, information and friendship for many years to come.



by
DOUG THOMAS

What Makes a Fern Lover?

by Jimmy Dyce

President Emeritus, British Pteridological Society



What makes fern lovers - pteridophyles, pteridomaniacs - tick? Not bright colours, certainly. Puzzled "onlookers" can understand people who go for beautiful flowers with vivid colourings but - just an all-over green, like grass - well! It is a rather insidious disease - one day you are fern-free, the next fern-madness has seized you and you are in its grip for life!

That is how it got me, and with over fifty years under its demanding influence, during which time, as a very active official in the British Pteridological Society, in close touch with its membership, I have seen very many other people fall victims, including a very large number in Australia when the "Australian Fern Craze" swept over your country.

Until the age of thirty I was blissfully ignorant about ferns and knew not one from another, then - Wham! it got me - and in just a matter of days I was head-over-heels in love with ferns! On my annual leave from my work in London I travelled up to the north of Scotland to spend two weeks with my parents. I broke my journey in Edinburgh to visit a friend. He had a casual interest in ferns for his garden, chiefly in the Hart's-tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) and asked if I could collect, during my travels, a few specimens for him. I assured him that this fern was plentiful in the north-east corner of Scotland where I was going. When I told my father who was a professional gardener, he looked at me with a very amused expression and - where was I going to find them? he asked. As I learned later, the Hart's-tongue Fern is practically non-existent in the north of Scotland except in the far west. It turned out that the fern I had in mind was the Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), a very different fern common throughout all Scotland! So much for my knowledge of ferns - but I had had my first inoculative jab.

More jabs followed during my walks with my father in the surrounding countryside; he now started to point out the different fern species which were abundant locally. The final jab came when sitting on a masoned granite wall in the garden and I noticed a tiny triangular fern frond (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*) struggling out of a literally hair-line crack in the cement. This led to a short lecture on the spore, its minute size, how it could travel long distances on the wind and could lodge in the tiniest of cracks where, if the moisture content was sufficient, it could develop into a new fern. I was fully inoculated with the disease, and the first thing I did on my return to London was to find out about books on ferns. On my thirtieth birthday I was presented with a copy of C.T. Drury's, "British Ferns and their Varieties", which I quickly absorbed from cover to cover - it was the most important present I have ever received in my whole life!

Membership of the British Pteridological Society followed. My enthusiasm was such that I was quickly into the ruling body of the Society and it has been the focal point in my life since then, first as Treasurer, Secretary/Treasurer, and adding gradually, with the exception of the editorship of the British Fern Gazette, all the other offices, most of them inaugurated by me. It was virtually a "one-man band", but with advancing age I relinquished them all, one by one, and now, honoured as President Emeritus of the Society, I sit back and let others get on with the job. - And, a very good job they are making of it!

I often reflect - how a very little thing - a friend asking me to get him a plant about which I knew not the first thing - led to an absorbing life-time interest, a way of life which still continues, as strongly as ever, to rule my life, even into my mid-eighties.

I finished with a few words on my involvement in fern interest in Australia. In the early post-war years we had a few members from your country and one of my self-imposed duties, as Secretary, was to keep in touch by letter with as many of our members as possible, particularly overseas members who were unable to participate in our activities in this country. I had a "soft spot" for Australia, particularly as I received many calls for help from members and would-be members who felt isolated because of the general lack of interest in ferns in Australia - how very different it is now! Information and books were sent, and in welcoming every new member I enclosed a list of names and addresses of all our Australian members so that, if they wanted to, they could get in touch with other kindred spirits.

I still keep up a correspondence - alas! not so vigorously now as in the past - with several fern friends in your country. I would particularly mention Chris Goudey with whom I have kept in touch for very many years, and who kept me fully informed in the days when your Society was being launched. Members from all your societies, when visiting this country, have called on me, and I recall with warm feelings the words of one visitor who told me that in the Australian fern societies the BPS is regarded as the Mother Society. How satisfying and heart-warming it is for me to know that I contributed a little to earn that honour.



WANTED TO PURCHASE or SWAP

Platycerium Willinckii cvs
Asplenium Parvum
and Polypodium Cambricoiden

Please Contact R.J. Pattison
PO BOX 567,
Rochedale Sth,
Queensland 4123.



ANNUAL REPORT OF 1988-89 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

The main activities of the Fern Society of Victoria Inc. during the life of the 1988-89 Committee of Management were in the established areas of monthly general meetings, field excursions and participation in horticultural exhibitions. We did not achieve our aim of further development of group fern study activities, but have this as an objective for next year.

Membership of the Society now stands at just under 300, and appears to have stabilised around this level over the last couple of years after peaking in the mid-500's several years ago.

Monthly Meetings.

With the exception of our December meeting cum Christmas party at Rippon Lea, all monthly meetings were held in the less-than-ideal venue of the Welsh Church Hall. This inevitably led to a drop in attendance, especially once parking became very difficult after the closure of a nearby parking lot which we had used free of charge. Unfortunately, we did not seek alternative accommodation for 1989 as we expected to move to the Herbarium in May (with some hope of April), but as you are aware the availability of this hall was progressively delayed until August.

Difficulties experienced in arranging the speaker programme left us with only two visiting speakers for the year. At the other meetings the depth of talent of our own members was utilised to provide talks, slide shows and discussions for the exchange of information. We thank the members involved in these activities. A Sub-Committee has been set up to organise the programmes for the monthly meetings and so take some of the load off the Secretary, who in the past has had the prime responsibility for contacting speakers. Their efforts are bearing fruit and we expect to have a number of interesting speakers available in the near future.

Excursions.

Three organised excursions were held during the year:

(1) A three-day trip to Wilson's Promontory with visits to Tarra Valley and Bulga Park on the return journey.

(2) A day excursion to Kinglake National Park finishing with a visit to Kevin and Gloria Tinker's nursery.

(3) A visit to Chris and Lorraine Goudey's nursery at Lara.

Reports indicated that all who went on these trips had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Albert Ward, Keith Hutchinson and Chris Goudey, respectively were the primary organisers for these visits, but many others were involved in varying degrees, especially for the Prom expedition, and we thank them all for their efforts.

A survey is being carried out to establish members' preferences for types of excursions. The results are being co-ordinated by Andre Cleghorn, who will be pleased to receive any further suggestions.

Shows

(a) The Society took part in the Stringybark Festival organised by Knox City Council at Ferntree Gully on 15th-16th October, 1988. Bill Taylor and a small group of helpers set up and staffed a stand under very adverse weather conditions. They deserve both our thanks for representing the Society and praise for their tenacity.

(b) The Society's own 1989 Fern Show was held at the Nunawading Horticultural Centre on 8th and 9th April. Attendance by the public was considerably lower than for the previous Show in 1987, with a consequent drop in revenue from admission charges and fern sales. However, the Show was generally felt to have been very successful in that with the smaller crowd a more relaxed atmosphere prevailed, allowing members helping at the Show more time to examine the exhibits and communicate with one another.

The members of the Show Committee were Betty Allgood, Julian Basser, Bernadette Blackstock, Ian Broughton, Derek Griffiths, John and Norma Hodges, Bob Lee, Joel Machar, Barry and Gay Stagoll, Bill Taylor and Barry White. On behalf of the Committee of Management, I thank my fellow Show Committee members for their efforts in the major task of organising the event and all Society members who participated for their contributions during the weekend of the Show.

Newsletter.

The Newsletter is of major importance as the main communication link within the Society and is, of course, the only face of the Society seen by many members. Terry Turney, who became Editor a year ago, has given the Newsletter a new and more cohesive look through the use of word processing techniques and other aids. His wife, Sharon, has assisted him greatly with layout and by providing the delightful fern vignettes which decorate the pages and give the publication a decided lift. We are doubly indebted to Sharon for her efforts as she is not a member of the Society.

Doug Thomas has made a major input to the Newsletter by carrying out the time-consuming task of writing up the reports of speakers at the monthly meetings, and Joan Taylor has helped with typing when required. The printed Newsletter has been folded and dispatched by our long-serving team of Kath Brown, Margaret Radley and Jean Trudgeon, using address labels supplied by John Oliver.

Many thanks to all members of the Newsletter team.

Finances

The Society is in a healthy financial position, as will be shown later in the Treasurers' Report (In next months newsletter - Ed.). Our thanks go to all who have been involved in our various fund generating activities and to Albert Ward who, as Treasurer, has had the demanding task of ensuring that all financial transactions are accurately recorded.

Committee of Management

The composition of the 1988/89 Committee of Management was as follows:-

President:	Robert Lee
Immediate Past President:	Keith Hutchinson
Vice-Presidents:	John Oliver
	Terry Turney
Secretary:	Bernadette Blackstock
Treasurer:	Albert Ward
Committed Members:	Andre Cleghorn
	John Hodges
	Joy Horman
	Joel Machar
	David Radford
	Margaret Radley

Keith Stubbs has continued in the official but unelected position of Public Officer, in which he is our official contact with the Registrar of Incorporated Associations, to whom we must report on our activities each year.

Attendance of Committee meetings was good and all members were effectively involved in the management of the Society's affairs for the year. In addition to participation in the general activities of the Committee, several members filled specific positions, as follows:

John Oliver -	Membership Secretary, Property Officer.
Terry Turney -	Newsletter Editor.
John Hodges -	Slide Bank Manager.
Joy Horman and Margaret Radley -	Special Effort Organisers.
David Radford -	Minute Secretary, Librarian.

Our Secretary, Bernadette Blackstock, who had already served in this position in the past, generously agreed to return to the post at the last A.G.M. when no other nomination was forthcoming. She deserves our special thanks for carrying out her duties in the face of increasing personal and professional commitments. Bernadette now feels that she must retire as Secretary, but has agreed to stay on for a short period until a successor can be found (once again no nomination has been forthcoming even through the need was well publicised.)

Joel Machar, who joined the Committee this year after 3 years as Spore Bank Manager, also finds himself unable to continue as a member of the Committee because of other responsibilities. He leaves with our grateful thanks for his contribution to the progress of the Society.

Other Services To Members

A number of members not on the Committee of Management carried out regular functions which are very important in the continuing operation of our Society.

- Jack Barrett, Janet McLennan and Jean Rohde staffed the fern sales table in the foyer of the hall and were effectively the 'welcoming committee' at meetings.

- Jean Boucher and Norma Hodges as Supper Hostesses provided welcome refreshments at the close of meetings.

- Chris Goudey conducted our Fern Identification and Pathology service and continued to astound all with the depth of his knowledge. He investigated several possibilities for excursions but these did not come to fruition and his talents for organising major trips were not exercised this year.

- Derek Griffiths conducted our Book Sales in an entrepreneurial manner and achieved a high turnover.

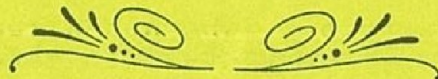
- Albert Jenkins continued to make Maxicrop and related products available at favourable prices.

- Barry White showed great proficiency in his job as Spore Bank Manager both at our monthly meetings and at our Fern Show.

To all these members and to the many others who helped in various ways throughout the year we express our thanks.

The incoming Committee will be greatly aided their task of guiding the Society's affairs by frank advice from members on the types of activities they would like to see undertaken and their reaction to what is organised. Effective two-way communication should go a long way towards ensuring that the second decade in the life of the Society continues in the same spirit of friendship and co-operative endeavour that has characterised the first.

for The Committee of Management.
Robert Lee - President.



FUTURE OUTINGS

John Hodges

Following a request in the August Newsletter to outer suburban and country members, to host an outing for members, we have had an encouraging initial response with two definite offers within 1.5 hrs drive and closer, and a further 2 members showing an interest for later on.

As the better weather approaches, we will be making a day to suit these members, and announcing details and directions in the newsletter in plenty of time to keep these dates free.

As time often runs short at our monthly meetings, we hope these outings will allow us to have a social day or two and exchange ideas on a relaxed and informal basis.

Bye Fern-ow,
John H.

BUYERS' GUIDE TO 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.
- * Andrew's Fern Nursery - Retail
Cosgrove Road, Invergordon, 3636, Ph:(058) 65 5369.
Large range of ferns for beginners and collectors. Open daily,
including public holidays, except Saturdays.
- * 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.
Kinglake West, 3757, Ph:(057) 86 5481.
(On main road, opposite Kinglake 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.
Weeaprounah, 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:

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