THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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NEWSLETTER VOLUME 15, Number 3, April 1993

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 45, Heidelberg West, Victoria, 3081.

OFFICE BEARERS:

President:	Barry White	Phor	ne 337	9793
Imm. Past President:	Robert Lee		836	1528
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Secretary:	John Hooper		434	1239
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Editor:	Robert Lee		836	1528
Book Sales:	Stephen Ziguras		388	1771
	(25 Ewing Street,	Brunswick, V	Vic., 30	056)

SUBSCRIPTIONS:	Single	-	\$15.0	00	(Per	nsion	her/St	tudent	t - \$11	.00)
	Family	-	\$18.0	0	(Per	nsior	ners -	- \$13.	.00)	
	Overseas	-	A\$30.0	00	(by	Airn	nail)			
	Subscript	ions	s fall	due	on	1st	July	each	year.	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The meeting this month will feature a special fern sale session. For the night to be a success we will need good support from members bringing in ferns for sale, and also bringing in a supply of cash to take advantage of the ferns for sale. Please assist.

Ferns for sale will need to be delivered to the sales coordinator, Bernadette Thomson, between 7.30 and 8.00 pm. Fern sales will be handled centrally and will not commence until after the talk, which will be shorter than usual to allow more time for the sales. The Society will charge a 15% commission on sales.

The talk will be by Don Fuller on his trip to Lord Howe Island last year. Lord Howe Island is a gem of a place with many interesting facets, including beautiful fern areas with unique ferns.

Fern Competition: The category this month will be an endemic Lord Howe Island fern. The ferns in this category include Marattia salicina var. howeana, Leptopteris moorei, Cyathea brevipinna, C. howeana, C. macarthurii, C. robusta, Microsorum howensis, Lastreopsis nephrodioides, Diplazium melanochlamys, Asplenium pteridioides, A. surrogatum, A. milnei, Blechnum contiguum, B. fullagari, Blechnum sp. aff. capense, Polystichum moorei, P.whiteleggei.

"Encyclopaedia of Ferns" by David Jones is out of print and there is no plan for a reprint. However, a Sydney book company "Florilegium" is bringing back some copies from the United States and copies may be purchased from them for \$90, including postage. "Florilegium" is at 30 Cameron St., Balmain, NSW 2041; phone (02) 555 8589.

Newsletter Items: It was interesting but disturbing to read the Editor's comment in last month's Newsletter about the limited number of contributors to the Newsletter. I do urge members to contribute items to the Newsletter. We are not looking for articles of high (continued opposite)

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Thursday, 15th April, 1993

TIME: From 7.30 p.m.

VENUE: The National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. (Melway Directory Ref. 2L A1)

PROGRAM: (a) Slides of Lord Howe Island by Don Fuller (b) Fern Sale

MEETING TIMETABLE:

7.30 - 8.00 p.m. Booking in of Ferns for Sale

		Pre-Meeting Activities: - Sales of Spore, Books and Special Effort Tickets ; Library Loans.
	8.00 p.m.	April General Meeting
	8.20 p.m.	Slides of Lord Howe Island
	8.50 p.m ⁱ .	Fern Competition Judging
<u> </u>	_	Fern Identification and Pathology
		Special Effort Draw
	9.00 - 9.45 p.m.	Sale of Ferns
	9.15 p.m.	Supper (served during Fern Sale)
	10.00 p.m.	Close
	10.00 p.m.	01036

FERN COMPETITION: The category for this month is a fern endemic to Lord Howe Island (see President's Message for varieties).

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE THE USUAL FERN SALES BEFORE THE MEETING.

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MARCH FERN COMPETITION

The category for the fern competition for the March meeting was a hanging basket. Congratulations to the following winners:

First:	Barry White	<i>Microsorum parksii</i> with <i>Platycerium bifurcatum</i> around outside of basket
Second:	Don Fuller	<i>Pteris cretica</i> 'Rivertoniana'
Third:	Lexie Hesketh	<i>Pyrrosia lingua</i>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: (continued)

literary or scientific merit, but comments or reports in everyday language on items which may be of use or interest to other members. Give it some thought. I am sure many of our members will have visited places which they consider would be of interest to other members, or have tried something a bit different or have noted something unusual in their garden. If so please use the Newsletter to pass the information on to other members.

Regards, Barry White

SPEAKER REPORT - GENERAL MEETING - 18TH MARCH, 1993

Speakers: Keith Hutchinson Doug Thomas

Subject: HANGING BASKETS

Keith spoke first and began with the point that being aesthetically pleasing is important with hanging baskets; the fern and container must look good in the situation. If they do not enhance the area, what is the point of having them?

As an example, he showed a bone-coloured plastic basket with gold chains that had proved visually appealing when used to hold a *Nephrolepis* in a kitchen which was stark white in colour with many shiny surfaces. A hanging basket with a coconut fibre liner would have looked completely out of place here but is ideal in a rustic bush house or garden where, conversely, a plastic basket would be less appropriate, especially a brightly coloured one.

If plastic baskets are used outside they should preferably have chain or wire hangers. Plastic hangers tend to deteriorate in sunlight.

Keith uses a plastic basket for the *Polypodium formosanum* (Grub Fern) he uses for propagation by division. The rhizome grows down over the sides of the basket and rooted pieces can be detached easily or the whole plant removed if required. With a coconut fibre basket it would be necessary to cut up the whole basket.

Position:

Ferns are generally in peak condition when purchased from retail nurseries; the challenge is to keep them so. Choice of the right position is a major factor in success. Ferns in baskets need to be kept out of hot winds, even those that prefer a lot of air circulation (such as *Nephrolepis*). Most like reasonably good light but not direct sunlight. Having the basket hanging in a spot with easy access helps in maintaining a regular watering and feeding schedule.

Growing Medium:

Ferns must have food continually if they are to stay healthy and they require adequate moisture and aeration. Keith uses a basic potting mix with a number of additives according to the type of fern involved.

Epiphytes must be well drained. Vermiculite (to about 10% by volume) is a valuable additive for these. It swells to about eight times its original volume and holds a lot of water, then absorbs air as it dries out and helps aeration of the mix. Perlite holds less water but aerates better. It is cheaper than Vermiculite and readily available.

Zeolite is a useful additive as it absorbs the plant food from liquid fertilisers and holds it for use by the plant, releasing it slowly as required. Add at the rate of a teaspoon to a 25 cm basket and mix well through the medium. Peat moss is also an excellent soil conditioner because of this feature and its moisture holding ability. Sawdust, on the other hand, will absorb the nutrients and use them to help its decomposition, making them unavailable to the plant. Keith has not tried the water-holding crystals which swell and retain large amounts of water, but wonders whether they might make the mix too wet in winter. Soil-wetting agents such as Wettasoil and Multicrop Soil Wetter are effective in promoting uniform wetting of the mix. This is particularly important for hanging baskets with coconut fibre liners, which are susceptible to channelling of water and thus only partial wetting. The tendency for water to pour out through the centre can be reduced by putting a disc of plastic with a few perforations in the bottom of the basket. Bark liners probably hold water a bit better than coconut fibre.

Fertilisers:

Organic manures such as well-rotted cow and fowl manure can be incorporated into the mix up to about 10%. Dynamic Lifter is a slowrelease manure and can be used safely. Osmocote and other slow-release chemical fertilisers can be incorporated into the mix or applied to the surface (a level teaspoon to a 25 cm basket).

Keith considers Aquasol to be still the best inorganic liquid fertiliser. Most of the newer ones have more nitrogen to promote lush growth but they generally do not have sufficient potash, so that the plants lose strength and the dark green colour that Aquasol gives.

Maxicrop should be used together with Aquasol to add various extra necessary minerals (micro nutrients). These are not all present in any of the inorganic liquid fertilisers.

Fish emulsion is an excellent fertiliser provided the smell is not considered too objectionable.

Pests:

Sprays have to be used with caution on epiphytes as the foliage of many of them is rather tender. The best defence is to keep plants healthy by regular feeding and watering and adequate air circulation. Once a fern becomes jaded it becomes more susceptible to pests and disease. As with Azaleas, mites have become a major problem in the last ten years or so, especially where air circulation is poor. Drynarias and Goniophlebium have to be watched for mites.

_ Watering:

Keith favours occasional good soakings (once or twice per week in hot weather) coupled with the use of misters in the shade house a couple of times a day. These give just enough moisture to humidify the air without making the plants wet enough to be soggy and induce rotting of the fronds. Drippers are becoming very popular for watering hanging baskets. It is prudent to tie them to the baskets in case of accidental movement.

Keith concluded by showing some of the range of plastic and wire baskets and basket liners available. With plastic baskets it is important to ensure that the drainage holes are adequate and that the saucer does not come up too high and hold too much water.

* * Doug's talk will be reported in the next issue.

At the conclusion of the talks, President Barry White thanked both speakers for sharing their knowledge of the subject with us and members supported these thanks with acclamation.

THE FERN THAT STRAYED

by Ross Scott

(This article and the fern description following are reproduced, with thanks, from the March, 1988 edition of the Newsletter of the S.G.A.P. Fern Study Group.)

The Lamington National Park, which covers some of the highest portions of the ranges on the Queensland - New South Wales border, must always be on the visiting list of any enthusiastic member of the fern fraternity. David Attenborough described the rainforest of the area as the most "visible" of any that he had seen. He went on to say that as the area does not have quite the lush growth nor the vast number of species of the Malaysian jungle, it is possible to see more during a walk in the forest.

A striking botanical change occurs at the 1,100 metre point on the Main Border Track, where within a distance of about 50 metres the vegetation changes from sub-tropical to cool temperate rainforest. There does not seem to be any visible reason why a section of warm temperate rainforest is missing. The change is quite dramatic.

The area has produced a number of species of shrubs, orchids and ferns that grow nowhere else. Nearly 80 species of ferns have been catalogued so far and the latest new species takes its place alongside *Asplenium nidus* and *A. australasicum*. The existence of a different "bird's-nest" fern in this area has been known for at least ten years, but any invitation to the experts to come up and look at it aroused no enthusiasm at all.

Now, thanks to David Jones, Asplenium harmanii has been described and put in its rightful place. It is a lithophyte, ignoring tree trunks and fallen logs, has great adaptability, growing in rainforest, wet or dry sclerophyll and bare, but shaded, cliff faces. The growth pattern sets it apart from A. australasicum, having most of the fronds in an upright position, with those approaching the horizontal falling in a sweeping curve.

The fronds can be up to 1.5 metres long and are usually half the width of A. australasicum, with the rachis differing in one important aspect. Underneath it has the common sharp V-shaped rachis but on top the 2/3rds ending at the apex is not only flat, it is flush with the surface of the frond. Variation in leaf width is often noted and the general rule seems to be the higher the rainfall, the wider the leaf. This observation seemed quite accurate until four sporelings of much the same age were checked. They grew underneath a large specimen, presumably their parent, in the 2,500 mm rainfall zone. Their fronds were 25 cm long and their widths - all different - varied from 4 cm to 1 cm. Fronds of the same age were compared. This species occasionally produces offsets.

Interesting as A. harmanii is, the most fascinating fern of all is found, not on the mountain top in the mist zone, but down in the valley where the creek decorates the cascades and waterfalls. There no wind penetrates and the humidity nourishes the *Tmesipteris*, *Pteris comans*, *Lycopodium myrtifolium*, *Dicksonia youngiae* and other interesting species.

As we travel down the slope through the rainforest, it is quite interesting to observe the relationship between altitude and some ferns. The six common *Lastreopsis* species grow below 1,000 metres. Above that is the home of *Lastreopsis sylvestris*, with its blue-green fronds and ginger hairs on the stipe and veins. The first Staghorn (*Platycerium superbum*) is seen at the 900 metre mark while its close relative the Elkhorn (*P. bifurcatum*) grows on the Hoop Pines at a slightly higher altitude in great profusion.

At one point where a small soak tinkles down the rock face is a tree with a Crow's-nest Fern (*A. australasicum*) seven metres up the trunk. Should we be passing here in July or August, the tail of an Albert Lyre Bird will be seen hanging out through the fronds. This mother has a strongly developed survival instinct - no dingo is going to breakfast on her chick!

We are about 500 metres down when a scattering of Polystichums appear. Their glossy fronds are always a bright spot in the rainforest. A quick check of the stipe reveals two different types of scale. It is a pleasure to make the acquaintance of *Polystichum fallax*. It is regarded as a fairly rare fern, but where it grows in this area it would be called "locally common".

The creek is not very far down the slope and we go round a rock and past a tree with two Crow's-nest Ferns just above the buttresses at the base of the tree. Between the buttresses are four baby "crow'snest" ferns, most likely grown from spores from the plants above. These are of no interest and our attention moves on, but some instinct makes the eyes focus again on those four small plants - their fronds are about 7 cm long, each plant having five fronds.

They are dull grey-green in colour, not glossy bright green. The fronds are growing in a fan-shape group, not in a rosette. They grow from a short creeping rhizome which has close packed knobs on it where old stipes have dropped off. It is clear that these are not Aspleniums. The back of the frond is examined for sori. These appear to follow the veins which grow almost parallel to the mid rib. The sori are a series of undulating lines, a bit like a child's attempt to draw a straight line freehand. It is these that finally decide the identity of the ferns. It is quite a shock to realise that we are looking at a family group of Antrophyum, probably a new species.

Members of the genus Antrophyum or Ox Tongue Fern are known as purely tropical species and the finding of these southern specimens gives us food for much speculation. They bear close similarity to Antrophyum subfalcatum, but the nearest members of that species are 1,200 km away in North Queensland. No other specimens have been found in the vicinity of these rarities, but when we look at the 19,000 hectares of rainforest in Lamington National Park, mostly untrodden, there could be more.

These fascinating specimens give further proof to the old maxim - "There is always something new in the bush".

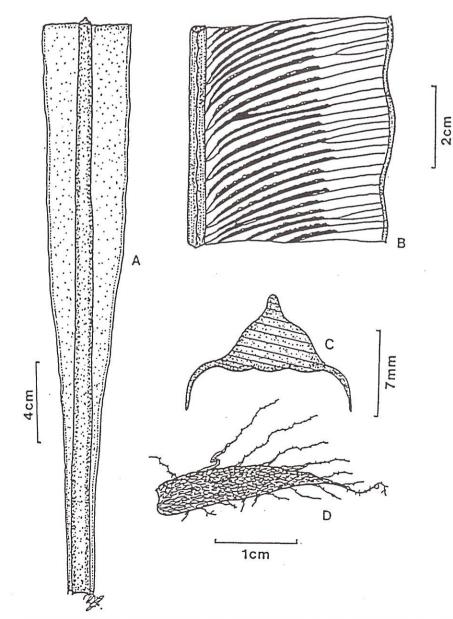
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ASPLENIUM HARMANII

The newly described Asplenium harmanii has been written up by David Jones in "Austrobaileya" in a paper titled "New Ferns from Northern Australia". The paper said that the fern is so far only known from above 1,000 metres altitude in the McPherson Range but is probably more widespread. It is common in parts of Lamington National Park and extends into New South Wales, as the author has seen living material in the Border Ranges National Park. Its habitat is on basalt rocks, boulders and cliff faces close to or on escarpments in rainforests.

Part of the "Austrobaileya article reads: "Asplenium harmanii has obvious close affinities with A. australasicum but can be distinguished immediately by the long-tapered, narrow, wing-like base to the fronds (the margins are parallel and suddenly incurved in A. australasicum), the adaxial surface of the midrib being more acute and with a green sinuous wing-like keel and the stiffly erect dark green fronds which form an untidy rosette in contrast to the neat, radiating, yellow-green rosette of A. australasicum. Holtum (1974) has drawn attention to the importance of growth habit in this group of ferns. With its erect fronds arising at various points in the clump, A. harmanii is much less efficient at trapping falling debris than is the radiating rosette of A. australasicum, the fronds of which are produced almost in a circle. The presence of more than one growth apex on the rhizomes of A. harmanii is a significant habit absent from A. australasicum in which the rhizome never branchas and the fronds arise in a single spiral from the outside of the growing apex. Lateral branching is only obvious on old plants of A. harmanii."

We shall have to look more closely at Bird's-nest Ferns in future.



Asplenium harmanii: A. base of frond showing tapered margins. B. section of fertile frond. C. T.S. through trond near base. D. rhizome scale. A,B,C,D Jones 2481 & Harman.

AN ARTICLE ON SPORE GROWING

by Debbie Lamb

(This article is taken, with thanks, from the February, 1993 issue of "The Fern World", the newsletter of the San Diego Fern Society.)

For those of you who are brave and patient enough to try growing from spores, I applaud you. There seems to be only a handful of us willing to make the effort any more. When you consider that the only way you're going to get duplicates of any ferns that you grow from a central caudex is either by tissue culture (costly) or by growing from spores, you are doing fellow fern lovers a very valuable service. If everyone grew just one fern from spore, we'd have a much greater selection of species for all.

For those of us growing from spore, I have some suggestions that should make the job easier and more interesting. First, when I collect the fronds, I always try to dip them in a 5% Chlorox solution and pat them dry with paper towels before I put the fronds into the envelope. This takes care of any vermin and fungus spores that may be clinging to the frond. You can also spray the growing medium with a 5% Chlorox or Physan (1/4 teaspoon to a gallon) solution just before you sow the spore.

I'm also using straight New Zealand sphagnum moss (chopped up) as my growing medium. It's so clean, even before sterilising, and I do believe it helps retard fungi growth.

For growing smaller amounts of spore, or if you want to start 3 or 4 tubs of the same thing (in case you *do* get mould in one), I use white Land-o-Lakes margarine tubs. Initially I used the semi-transparent covers to seal them up, but it's hard to see what's going on inside unless you open the lid. For a while I put each tub in a plastic sandwich bag so I could peek without contaminating the culture. Now, I just cut out the centre of the lid, leaving only the rim, cover the tub with Saran Wrap and pop the rim lid on to hold the Saran Wrap in place. This works much better than rubber banding the Saran Wrap, because rubber bands rot and break to quickly.

When sporophytes have developed enough to be transplanted, I pluck them out, plant them in seedling trays and immediately spray both sides of their fronds with Cloud Cover. Cloud Cover is a polymer-based spray used by nurserymen for cold protection and transplanting (see note below - Ed.). It coats the tender leaves with a plastic coating. Just let it dry and the fronds are protected from dehydration until new acclimated growth comes up. This has worked unbelievably well for me. No longer do I have to work at gradually hardening off my babies and the overall survival rate borders on 100%. Try this and let me know your results.

The most interesting thing I've been doing is blenderising my gametophytes. I first started doing this when I had a flat of

<u>Editor's Note</u>: I have been unable to locate a source of this material or an equivalent local product. If any of our nurseryman members know this information would they please contact me by phone or letter so it can be published. Even better, let us have a short note about your experience with it on ferns or other plants. Diplazium ternatum gametophytes that wouldn't fertilize. . .igured they had been sown too heavily (one of my shortcomings), so I plucked a clump out the size of my little fingernail and popped it into my blender with a little sterile water. I put it on puree for about ten seconds and then poured the solution over a clean batch of medium. In no time I had another whole flat of gametophytes that did develop into sporophytes.

I kept the original culture going for several years, spraying occasionally with a weak solution of fertilizer, plucking clumps and blenderising as I saw fit. Eventually the original culture developed sporophytes too. Using this method you can have a continuous supply of a species for a long, long time.

Presently, I'm blenderising two different gametophytes together, to increase my chances of a hybrid. I'm using Maidenhairs because they're fast and I have a large selection of them, but I'd like to try tree ferns next.

I hope some of you will try this method. I'd like to know your results.

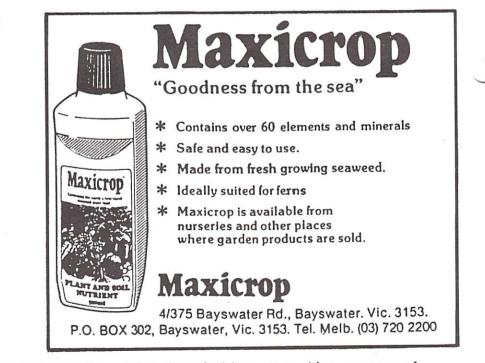
Debbie Lamb 13441 S.W. 100th Court Miami FL 33176

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CHANGE TO BUYERS' GUIDE TO NURSERIES

Please note that changes have been made to the entry for Andrew's Fern Nursery on the back page following the inclusion of orchids in the product range.

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Opinions expressed in articles in this Newsletter are the personal views of the author and are not necessarily endorsed by the Society.

March General Meeting

Norma Hodges

Stephen Ziguras

Ella Thomas

George Start

Allison Whytecross

Dave White

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SPORE LIST

Ordering: The following spore is free to those who donate spore. Otherwise, members 20 cents each sample, non-members 50 cents, plus \$1.00 to cover p. and p.. Available at meetings or by mail from Barry White, 24 Ruby St, West Essendon, Vic. 3040. - Ph. (03) 337 9793. There is no charge to overseas members, but to cover postage two International Reply Coupons would be appreciated. A booklet on spore collection and cultivation is available for 40 cents or free to spore donors.

ADIANTUM concinnum 3/92 ADIANTUM raddianum 'Weigandii' 3/92 ADIANTUM whitei 3/92 ASPLENIUM milnei 4/92 ASPLENIUM obtusatum 3/93 ATHYRIUM filix femina 1/92 ATHYRIUM niponicum v. pictum 3/92 BLECHNUM braziliense 6/92 BLECHNUM cartilagineum 1/92 BLECHNUM chambersii 10/92 BLECHNUM discolor 6/92 BLECHNUM fluviatile 10/92 BLECHNUM gibbum 1/92 BLECHNUM minus 6/92 BLECHNUM nudum 10/92 BLECHNUM sp. (Philipines) 1/92 BLECHNUM wattsii 10/92 BLECHNUM wattsii x minus 3/93 CONIOGRAMME intermedia 1/92 CYATHEA australis 3/93 CYATHEA brownii 3/93 CYATHEA cooperi 10/92 CYATHEA howeana 10/92 CYATHEA tomentosissima 5/92 CYRTOMIUM falcatum 3/92 DICKSONIA antarctica 3/93 DICKSONIA herbertii 10/92 DICKSONIA sellowiana 10/92 DICKSONIA youngiae 2/93 DIPLAZIUM centripetale 2/92 - DOODIA aspera 1/92

DORYOPTERIS pedata 6/92 DRYOPTERIS atrata 3/93 DRYOPTERIS erythrosora 1/92 DRYOPTERIS hondoensis 11/92 HYPOLEPIS glandulifera (punctata) 11/92 LASTREOPSIS hispida 3/92 MACROTHELYPTERIS torresiana 1/92 MICROSORUM parksii 1/93 NIPHIDIUM crassifolium 5/92 OSMUNDA schraderi cv conto PELLAEA cordifolia 6/92 PELLAEA falcata nana 3/93 PELLAEA falcata 3/93 OSMUNDA schraderi cv contorta 3/92 PELLAEA hastata 2/92 PELLAEA viridis v. macrophylla 2/92 PITYROGRAMMA calomelanos v. aureoflava 7/92 PNEUMATOPTERIS penniger 3/92 POLYSTICHUM acrostichoides 4/92 POLYSTICHUM lentum 3/93 POLYSTICHUM munitum 6/92 POLYSTICHUM proliferum 11/92 POLYSTICHUM retroso-paleaceum 10/92 PTERIS dentata 6/92 PTERIS fauriei 3/93 PTERIS hendersonii 3/93 PTERIS quadriaurita cv argyrae 10/92 PTERIS wallichiana 3/93 RUMOHRA adjantiformia (2000) RUMOHRA adiantiformis (S.Africa) 3/92 RUMOHRA adiantiformis native 3/93 STICHERUS lobatus 6/92

SPORE DONATIONS

Thank you to the following who have contributed spore : Rose Bach, Bob Halley, Crosby Chase, Bill Taylor, Lorraine Deppeler.

SPORE WANTED

The spore list is short this month due to the deletion of spores collected prior to 1992. Spore donations are urgently sought in order to refresh and restore the Spore Bank. Contributions may be mailed to the above address or handed to me at the monthly meetings.

Barry White

BUYERS' GUIDE TO NURSERIES

VICTORIA:

Andrew's Fern Nursery / Castle Creek Orchids - Retail. Goulburn Valley Highway, Arcadia, 3613. (20 km south of Shepparton). Large range of ferns and orchids for beginners and collectors. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm except Christmas Day. Ph: (058) 26 7285.

Austral Ferns - Wholesale Propagators. Ph: (052) 82 3084. Specialising in supplying retail nurseries with a wide range of hardy ferns; no tubes.

Dingley Fern Market - Wholesale and Retail. Ph: (03) 551 1868. 233 Centre Dandenong Road, Dingley, 3172. Specialising in Ferns, Palms, Indoor Plants, Orchids and Carnivorous Plants. Open daily except Christmas Day.

Fern Acres Nursery - Retail. Kinglake West, 3757. Ph: (057) 86 5481. (On main road, opposite Kinglake West Primary School). Specialising in Stags, Elks and Bird's-nest Ferns.

Fern Glen - Wholesale and Retail. Visitors welcome. D. & I. Forte, Garfield North, 3814. Ph: (056) 29 2375.

<u>R. & M. Fletcher's Fern Nursery</u> - Retail. 62 Walker Road, Seville, 3139. Ph: (059) 64 4680. (Look for sign on Warburton Highway, 300m east of Seville shopping centre). Closed Tuesday, except on public holidays.

<u>Ridge Road Fernery</u> - Wholesale and Retail. Weeaproinah, 3237. Ph: (052) 35 9383. Specialising in Otway native ferns.

<u>Viewhaven Nursery</u> - Wholesale and Retail. Avon Road, Avonsleigh (near Emerald), 3782. Ph: (059) 68 4282 Specialists in Stags, Elks, Bird's-nests and Native Orchids.

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Jim & Beryl Geekie Fern Nursery - Retail. By appointment. 6 Nelson Street, Thornleigh, 2120. Ph: (02) 484 2684.

Kanerley Fern Exhibition and Nursery - Wholesale and Retail. 204 Hinton Road, Nelsons Plains, via Raymond Terrace, 2324. Ph: (049) 87 2781. Closed Thursdays and Saturdays. Groups of more than 10 must book in advance, please.

Marley's Ferns - Retail. 5 Seaview Street, Mt. Kuring-gai, 2080. Ph: (02) 457 9168.

QUEENSLAND:

Moran's Highway Nursery - Wholesale and Retail. Bruce Highway, Woombye (1 km north of Big Pineapple; turn right into Keil Mountain Road). P.O. Box 47, Woombye, 4559. Ph: (074) 42 1613.