THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 15, Number 5, June 1993

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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

OFFICE BEARERS:

President:	Barry White	Ph	one	337	9793
Imm. Past President:	Robert Lee			836	1528
Vice President:	Terry Turney		11	807	4886
Secretary:	John Hooper			434	1239
Treasurer:	Don Fuller		11	306	5570
Membership Secretary:	John Oliver			879	1976
Spore Bank Manager:	Barry White		"	337	9793
Editor:	Robert Lee		" .	836	1528
Book Sales:	Stephen Ziguras		11	388	1771
per la constante de	(25 Ewing Street,	Brunswick,	Vic.	, 30	056)

SUBSCRIPTIONS:	Single -	\$15.00	(Pensioner/Student - \$11.00)
	Family -	\$18.00	(Pensioners - \$13.00)
	Overseas -	A\$30.00	(by Airmail)
	Subscription	s fall due	e on 1st July each year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Members who were unable to attend last month's meeting missed an excellent talk by Chris Goudey on climbing ferns, and a grand display of specimens from his fernery. Many of the ferns were quite unusual, with many tropical ones and much of interest to members. Thank you, Chris, for the effort you put into selecting and presenting the ferns.

The fern competition last month was poorly supported - perhaps most members had difficulty in bringing in a respectable climbing fern. Incidentally, it was surprising that there was not one Lygodium japonicum, a fern which is very popular among members, and which most quickly springs to mind when climbing ferns are mentioned. I do wish to emphasise that the competition aspect is secondary. The main purpose is to have a good display of ferns up front, hopefully a wide range, hopefully mostly of reasonable quality, so that we have something there of interest to members, and no visitor to a meeting can be in any doubt that he or she is attending a meeting of the Fern Society.

The speaker at this month's meeting will be Simon Branson from Debco. His topic will be 'Potting Mixes'. Members may recall that Kevin Handreck of CSIRO, who spoke at the June '92 meeting, mentioned the range and quality of the Debco mixes. As most ferns are grown in pots and a good potting mix is essential in growing good ferns, I look forward to hearing from Simon Branson on this topic.

Finally, the fern competition category for this month is an Asplenium. As our guest speaker will not be presenting any ferns, we will be relying on members to ensure that ferns predominate the front stage. Every member should be able to bring along at least one Asplenium and I trust we will have a good and varied display.

Regards, Barry White

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Thursday, 17th June, 1993.

TIME: From 7.30 p.m.

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

TOPIC: POTTING MIXES

SPEAKER: Simon Branson of Debco Pty Ltd

MEETING TIMETABLE

	7.30 p.m.	Pre-Meeting Activities:- Sales of Ferns, Spore, Books and Special Effort Tickets ; Library Loans.
	8.00 p.m.	June General Meeting
	8.20 p.m.	Topic of the Evening
_	9.30 p.m.	Fern Competition Judging
		Fern Identification and Pathology
		Special Effort Draw
	9.45 p.m.	Supper
	10.00 p.m.	Close.

FERN COMPETITION: The category for this month is an Asplenium.

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MAY FERN COMPETITION

The category for the competition for the May meeting was a climbing fern. The winner was Don Fuller who entered a prime specimen of *Polypodium formosanum* 'Cristatum'.

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JULY GENERAL MEETING

Our July meeting will be addressed by Peter Bostock of the Queensland Herbarium, who will be our interstate guest speaker for the year. His subject will be "Wandering the Fern World of North-East Australia".

This is a meeting that should not be missed. There is the added bonus that Peter is also a member of our Society and this will be an opportunity to meet him socially.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Membership subscriptions for 1993/94 fall due on 1st July. Rates remain the same as for the current year.

An application form for renewal of membership is included with this Newsletter. Prompt payment is requested, as late renewals cause extra administrative work.

SPEAKER REPORT - GENERAL MEETING - 15TH APRIL, 1993

Speaker: Don Fuller

Subject: LORD HOWE ISLAND

Don and Margaret spent the last week of October, 1992 on Lord Howe Island, a visit which Don assured us followed the chance receipt of a brochure from the NSW Tourist Commission and had no connection with the fact that he had become Treasurer of our Society in the preceding August.

Don's presentation was clearly the result of much preparatory work, including as it did not only slides taken during the trip but some prepared from brochures, maps and his own prints and video tapes. We were given a good picture of the overall layout of the island and the location of the main fern areas plus many photographs of the ferns themselves.

Lord Howe Island is located approximately 700 kilometres north-east of Sydney and due east of Port Macquarie. Access is by plane, which gives a good initial view of the shape and layout of the island. The climate is sub-tropical with maximum temperature varying between 16^OC and 26^OC (20-22 during their visit). The island has World Heritage Listing with two-thirds of its area reserved as a Permanent Park Reserve. It has no fast food outlets, no pub, no high-rise buildings, no advertising signs and few motor vehicles, but it does have good accommodation, licensed restaurants, beautiful scenery, clean beaches, pure air and interesting, unique vegetation.

An article by Chris Goudey in 'The Australian Fern Journal' 1(1): 1-11 (1984) listed 48 species of ferns on Lord Howe Island and some 20 of these are endemic. The other main vegetation of note is the palms, four of which are endemic. The best known is the Thatch Palm (*Howea forsteriana*) which is sold as the Kentia Palm; the others are the Curly Palm, the Big Mountain Palm and the Little Mountain Palm. Another interesting item of vegetation was the Banyan Tree.

Lord Howe Island is approx. seven kilometres long and varies in width 3/4 - 2 kilometres. It has a shallow horseshoe shape with a narrow flat area in the centre where the airport is located. The northern section varies in height up to 209 metres and contains most of the residential area, though there is still a large area of Permanent Park Reservation. The southern mountain area contains Mount Lidgbird (777 metres) and Mount Gower (875 m) which dominate the island; Mount Gower is the southernmost part. The fern populations of the two areas are significantly different.

Northern Section:

Two ferns which are widespread throughout the whole area, including the residential section, are *Asplenium milnei* and *Microsorum* sp. aff. *diversifolium*.

A main area for ferns is the track which runs along the eastern rim from Malabar Hill to Kim's Lookout and down to North Bay on Old Settlement Beach. Here Don photographed Pteris tremula, Adiantum hispidulum (in an open area with high light level), Microsorum sp. aff. diversifolium, Asplenium milnei and Pteris microptera (in shade under a tree canopy) and also observed Pellaea falcata, Psilotum nudum and several large areas of Arthropteris tenella. The second area of interest is between the Valley of Shadows (which holds a forest of palms) and the coast. Here on an area of coral limestone covered with dry sandy soil is a magnificent stand of *Asplenium milnei* (easily the best seen) with some plants actually growing on exposed limestone. In full sun a little further on is a large and very thick stand of *Histiopteris incisa*, at least 30 m long by 10-15 m wide one side of the track and slightly less on the other. The effect was similar to walking through a sugar cane plantation.

Asparagus plumosa, commonly known as the Asparasgus Fern, is becoming an invasive pest in the residential areas.

Southern Mountains:

A visit to the southern mountains is a must for a fern enthusiast but is not easy to make. Only Mount Gower is accessible to the general public and then only as part of an organised group led by a professional guide; tours are restricted to one day per week. The trip is physically demanding as the climb to 875 m starts at sea level and all gear and food have to carried personally. Don carried a video camera, two still cameras, a flash unit and (of course) literature on ferns. Their trip took 10 1/2 hours after a 7.30 am start.

The starting point is approx. one kilometre from the foot of Mount Lidgbird and the trip begins with a steep climb through Thatch Palms to a track across the west face of Mt. Lidgbird known as the Lower Road. This is a single-file track about 250 m in length with a vertical rock wall up to 100 m high on the inside and a steep drop of about 80 m to the sea on the outside. Hard hats are now required when traversing this section. The track then turns up the valley between the two mountains before zig-zagging up the north east face of Mt. Gower to the saddle which links the two mountains. This point, known as the Resting Place is approx. 450 m above sea level. From here it is a steep climb up the eastern spur of Mt. Gower to the top. This includes a very steep section called the Get Up Point which has proved to be a barrier to feral animals.

The top of Mt. Gower is a plateau covered by rainforest and is a wonderland of ferns, palms, mosses, orchids and other vegetation with a ceiling height of $2 \ 1/2 - 3 \ m$. The area has a high rainfall and is frequently covered by cloud.

The ferns seen along the Lower Road were mainly Asplenium australasicum (Lord Howe Is. form) with many growing in clefts in the rock face. In the valley between the mountains specimens of Cyathea robusta were seen and some Platycerium bifurcatum. Photography was very difficult on the climb up to the Resting Place as the party was in single file but the ground ferns seen included Pteris microptera, Nephrolepis cordifolia, Hypolepis elegans, a Diplazium species and the ever-present Asplenium milnei and Microsorum sp. aff. diversifolium.

After the Resting Place they moved into the rainforest. Fern species encountered after this were *Blechnum attenuatum*, *B. fullagari*, *Blechnum* sp. aff. procerum, *B. patersonii*, Grammitis diminuta, Cyathea brevipinna, *C. howeana*, *C. macarthurii*, Arthropteris tenella, Doodia caudata, Polystichum whiteleggei, Leptopteris moorei, Asplenium pteridioides and a variety of filmy ferns. The presentation concluded with a stunning view back over the island from the top of Mt. Gower.

President Barry White complimented Don on his excellent photographs and well-presented talk, and members present endorsed his thanks.

A NOVEL HANGING BASKET

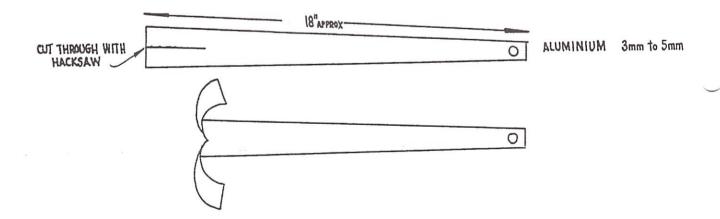
(The following article which is taken, with thanks, from the December, 1989 issue of the Newsletter of the Western Australian Fern Society Inc. makes an interesting follow-up to the talks on hanging baskets by Keith Hutchinson and Doug Thomas reported in our last two Newsletters.)

Barry Winter was our main speaker and in his most entertaining fashion treated us to a very enlightening demonstration on growing Elkhorns (*Platycerium bifurcatum*) in symmetrical form, i.e., the Elk develops into a ball shape.

To do this, however, a lot of time and patience is required, but the end result is well worth the effort.

1st Stage: Take a 10" plastic pot or bucket with a dish bottom. Fill with firmly packed peat moss (German or similar). Place an established single Elk, or a good size piece cut from an existing Elk, on top of the peat moss in the pot. (The size is important, because if it's too small the root system will take longer to develop). Pack more peat moss under the Elk to avoid any air cavities (Barry was quite brutal with any overhanging shields; secateurs or scissors soon disposed of these). The Elk then needs to grow for approximately 12 months to allow the roots to form and compact in the peat moss. The DISH BOTTOM pot should be solid with roots.

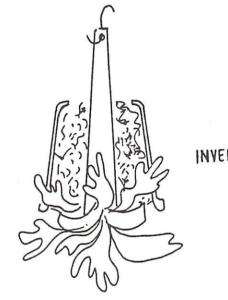
<u>2nd Stage</u>: Barry then, with a prepared Elk, inverted the pot with the plant intact and with a sharp knife cut out the bottom section of the plastic tub. This is necessary to place the aluminium spear (made as in the diagram) which becomes the hook for hanging.



The spear is pushed through the top of the Elk, through the root ball and finally through the cut section of the pot. To assist with this, Barry cut a slot through the Elk with a large knife (care should be taken not to damage the growing "eye" or the rhizome behind it when doing this).

The plant can than be inverted and hung. Barry did point out that at this stage new growth which had developed over the 12-month period would probably die because photosynthesis couldn't occur on the underside of the fronds. Once the plant is hanging, new Elks will form around the root ball and gradually the plastic pot can be removed permanently. Barry also stressed that watering was very important throughout the entire process.





INVERTED

Barry also demonstrated with consummate skill a method of propagating new ferns from leaf cuttings. For this he used a very small (tube) Bird's-nest Fern and, having removed it from the pot, cleaned away most of the roots. He then carefully, with tweezers, separated individual fronds from the remainder and planted them in a polystyrene container in two inches of peat moss. After the initial watering a polystyrene lid was placed on top and the tiny fronds were left undisturbed to develop into new plants.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Fern Society of Victoria Inc. will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday, 19th August, 1993 at The National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.

Business to be transacted will be:

- 1. Receive and deal with the President's Report on behalf of the Committee of Management.
- 2. Receive and deal with the Treasurer's report.
- 3. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members of the Committee of Management for 1993-94.
- 4. General Business.

Nominations for Committee of Management.

Nominations are now called for the positions of Office Bearers and Committee Members for the year July, 1993 to June, 1994. Nominations should be in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder, and include the written consent of the nominee. They must be received by the (continued page 58) The following article from LAIFS Fern Journal, 20(2):24 (Feb. 1993) - a publication of the Los Angeles International Fern Society Inc.- is one of a series about the trip of the American fernists who joined us at our monthly meeting last October.

A TRIP TO THE ANTIPODES

Part 1: Ferning in Australia

by Janet E. Keyes

Barbara Joe and Takashi Hoshizaki, Denia Mandt, Sylvia Louie of San Francisco, Susan McQueen of New York and my husband George and I all met in the international terminal at the Los Angeles airport on Thursday, October 7. We embarked on this adventure to the Antipodes knowing we would cross the international dateline twice. Five of us had no real knowledge of what else we would encounter.

We arrived in Cairns, Australia, on Friday, October 9 at about 5.00 a.m. The trip was an exhausting 15 hour flight from Los Angeles, even with a short stop in Honolulu....

(The travellers then continued a hectic schedule which included visits to the Flecker Botanical Gardens and nurseries in Cairns, the Daintree National Park, the Great Barrier Reef, Kuranda Railway Station inland from Cairns with its well-known collection of ferns, Mt. Kuringai Chase National Park near Sydney, the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens and Marley's Ferns north of Sydney.)

....Thursday, October 15, saw us off to Melbourne. We had a quickie tour of the city, including a stop at the Queen Victoria Market. Then, after registering at our hotel and changing, we headed for the Royal Botanic Gardens. We stopped first at the Visitors' Centre to see a video on the Gardens before we began our behind-the-scenes tour.

A botanic assistant led us through the greenhouses. We saw a spectacular *Blechnum vulcanicum*, more lycopodiums and an interesting calathea. As we were about to begin our walk through the fabulous Fern Gully, the weather quit cooperating. We dashed through the exhibit oohing and aahing over the black treeferns *Cyathea medullaris*, *Asplenium*, and other ferns. After a quick stop for gift items, we splashed our way to the trolley stop and a moist ride back to the hotel.

That evening members of the Fern Society of Victoria gave us a ride to their monthly meeting at the Botanic Gardens. There we were treated to a wonderful display of native ferns set up by the members. After Barry White, the president, welcomed us, Barbara gave a talk on Central American ferns. Then Chris Goudey spoke on Australian treeferns. The Society commemorated our visit by presenting each of us with one of their ten-year memorial glasses and copies of the newsletter.

On Friday, October 16, we boarded a bus with members of the Fern Society and travelled southwest through rain and mist to continue our ferning. The first stop was at Lara, where Chris and Lorraine Goudey have their Austral Ferns nursery. Chris led us on a tour of the facility where he raises ferns for the retail market, and in which he houses a collection every fern enthusiast only dreams of owning!

Chris showed us an Asplenium caudatum he had obtained at Kew Gardens and an Asplenium hypomelas from Zimbabwe. Then the numbers and the variety of his collection took hold and 'fern madness' set in. It was like we had all died and gone to heaven! We saw the fragrant stilt fern Oleandra neriiformis; a Blechnum species from the Blue River in New Caledonia; the incredible tassel fern Lycopodium polytrichoides from north Queensland; the Cyathea treeferns C. brownii and C. robusta; the velvety shield fern Lastreopsis velutina; an Asplenium bulbiferum from Lord Howe Island; Arachniodes standishii; Selaginella watsonii cv. Snowdust, a fern ally; the king fern Marattia salicina; Davallia tasmanii, Diplazium melanochlamys, Polypodium glaucophyllum, Selliuea feei, Platycerium veitchii and many, many more.

After we examined the treeferns in his front yard, Chris led us to his filmy fern house. He has collected in this special place all of the *Leptopteris* ferns. He has even crossed some of them. The Prince of Wales fern *Leptopteris superba* and the kidney fern *Trichomanes reniforme* were particularly stunning.

Totally sated, we left Lara with Chris and the others bound for the Otways, a range of mountains on the south coast with remnants of the Australian cool temperate rain forest. We had to detour around a flooded area by way of Turtons Track, a very muddy and somewhat narrow mountain road. Here we found examples of the magnificent mountain ash *Eucalyptus regnans*, a slender, straight 150 foot tree used primarily for telephone poles. The prolific *Dicksonia antarctica* treeferns with up to thirty very healthy fronds were shrouded with fog and covered by *Blechnum* and *Asplenium* epiphytes.

Our goal, Melba Gully State Park, the 'Jewel of the Otways', is named for Nelly Melba, the famous Australian opera singer. This gully is another remnant of native bush. There are many ferns in this moist, dark setting, as well as many examples of native trees and birds. The resident platypus and glow worms, though, kept well out of sight. Unlike Queensland, ferns in this part of Victoria grow in the detritus on the forest floor, not in its soil.

After exploring the gully and having a sack lunch, we proceeded to Cool Waters Fern Nursery. It sits atop a hill with a spectacular view of the Tasman Sea. Trenched through the middle of a hill, the dirt sides are lined with black plastic to absorb the sun's warmth. The Solargro fibreglass overhead protects the ferns by diffusing its direct rays. Here the owner Ray Edwards spores the many ferns he sells to others for finishing.

On Saturday, October 17, Ron Cameron drove us and Chris Goudey, our guide for the day, east through the rain to Elsternwick. We were joined by Coral Lindbeck of Kanerley Nursery in Nelsons Plains, north of Sydney, for a tour of Rippon Lea. This once private 19th century estate encompasses magnificent English style country gardens and a two and a half acre ornamental lake.

On the south side of the house stands a fine example of a Victorian fernery. Over 110 feet long, the fernery is landscaped and has its own misting system. The high, arching lath superstructure protects the collection of treeferns, aspleniums and other ferns from the extremes of wind and weather. At the open end of the fernery, a striking black treefern has only a few fat fronds which are unusual in growing horizontally instead of standing erect. After a too short tour of the colorful grounds, we said goodbye to Coral and went on to Dingley.

Dingley Fern Market is the inspiration of Colin and Tuia Clayton. This retail nursery specialises in ferns, but also carries carnivorous plants and topiary. Sulphur-crested cockatoos in a tropical setting with elkhorns and Asplenium nidus add an unusual touch to the sales area. Outside the market, Colin has a Rainforest Walk set in a treefern garden. Here all sizes of Dicksonia antarctica, harvested in the wild, take root in bare ground. Amazingly, they continue to grow and put out new fronds. Customers buy treeferns from this unique suburban forest the way we in southern California select pine trees to cut at our local Christmas tree lots.

With souvenirs from Colin in hand, we headed for Sassafras Gully in the Dandenong Range east of Melbourne.

Here, after lunch, Chris wanted to show us some of Australia's beautiful lyre birds and another fern forest. The birds, however, wisely took the day off to get out of the rain.

We, instead, had a slip and slide adventure on the wet, little used trail. We looked for and found a Cyathea marcescens, a natural cross between C. cunninghamii and C. australis. Like this Skirted treefern we also noticed that the D. antarctica in this gully display their skirts, old fronds which hang down and hide their trunks. The trunk of one treefern leaning near the trail had developed a 'horse neck'. This happens when the upper trunk bends. The roots around the trunk then continue growing toward the ground. When they reach it, they root, thereby dramatically increasing the diameter of the lower trunk.

We admired the gorgeous and profusely blooming thirty foot rhododendrons as we left the Dandenongs for our last stop of the day. Fletcher's Fern Nursery has over 350 species or cultivars of ferns. Many are from Fiji, New Caledonia and Hawaii, but all are suitable for growing outside in the Melbourne area. The entry to the nursery spans a treefern filled moat accompanied, unfortunately, by mosquitos. Bob and Marion have many specimen sized treeferns like *Cyathea dregei* from South Africa; *C. leichhardtiana; C. spinulosa* from the Himalayas; *C. robusta* from Lord Howe Island; *C. australis; C. dealbata; C. kermadecensis; C. howeana* and dicksonias like *D. youngiae* and *D. fibrosa*. Mind boggling! Eventually the Fletchers took mercy on us and offered tea. They truly have an extensive range of ferns.

The visit to Sydney and Melbourne excited us as much as the more tropical, and warmer, Cairns had. I know all of us will treasure our memories of Australia's friendly people and diverse flora. There's so much more to see, I can hardly wait to return!

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: (continued from p. 55)

Secretary not less than seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Nominations may be called at the Annual General Meeting only if insufficient have been received previously to fill all vacancies.

General Business.

Items to be discussed and voted on under General Business at the Annual General Meeting must be notified to the Secretary in writing not less than 21 days prior to the Meeting, so that details may be included in the August Newsletter, which will be posted to all Members seven days before the Meeting in accordance with the Society's rules.

John Hooper Hon. Secretary

OUT THEY GO! FERN BOOKS END OF FINANCIAL YEAR SALE

To make room for the next years' books, I am selling off as much stock as possible before the end of the financial year. There are also a few copies of books that have been used for display which are being discounted so I can bring in some new copies. Prices for members are listed below.

Display copies only	Was	Sale price
Ferns of Queensland - Andrews	\$39.00	\$35.00
Ferns to Know and Grow - Gordon Foster	\$39.50	\$35.00
Maidenhair Ferns in Cultivation - Goudey	\$43.00	\$39.00
Ferns in Australia - Jones and Goudey	\$10.00	\$8.00
Plants from Test-tubes - Kyte	\$32.00	\$28.00
Ferns - A Handbook (USA)	\$4.00	\$3.00
Excess stock - discounted to sell	Was	Sale Price
Ferns for Ferneries - Martin	\$12.00	\$9.00
New Zealand Ferns and Allies	\$4.00	\$3.00
When Should I Water? - CSIRO	\$3.20	\$2.00
Organic Matter and Soils - CSIRO	\$3.20	\$2.00

Books can be bought at the June meeting, or direct from Stephen Ziguras on 388 1771. These prices will only last until June 30, so get in quick!

SPECIAL EFFORT WINNERS

May General Meeting

Bill Taylor

Edna Fuhrmeister

Allison Whytecross

Anne Bryant

Rod Cooper

 Maxicrop

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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. Mention of a product does not constitute its endorsement.

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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.

<u>Dingley Fern Market</u> - 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.

Kawarren Fernery - Wholesale and Retail. Situated on the Colac - Gellibrand Road, Kawarren (20 km south of Colac). Ph: (052) 35 8444.

<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.

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