

**THE
FERN SOCIETY
OF
VICTORIA**

Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

VOL. 21, Number 1

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FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Single - \$13.00 Pensioner/student \$10.00
 Family - \$15.00 Pensioner Family \$12.00
 Overseas - A\$20.00 (Magazine by airmail)
Subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except December and January
 at Victoria Bowling Club, 217 Grattan Street, Carlton. Melways 2B D8.

OUR SOCIETY'S OBJECTIVES.

The objectives of the Society are;

- *to bring together persons interested in ferns and allied plants
- *to promote the gathering and dissemination of information about ferns
- *to stimulate public interest in ferns and
- *to promote the conservation of ferns and their habitats.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

Ian Broughton

Greetings again from the Presidential Pen (what I write with, rather than where I live!) Maybe greetings from the Presidential Computer would be more appropriate.

Your committee has been working hard (around tea and cakes at Don's place - thank you Margaret) and we have a number of things on the move for next year, our 20th anniversary year.

We are planning a fernery crawl around the Essendon area visiting the Whites', Fullers', Harrisons' and Barretts' ferneries. Further details will be available in the next newsletter.

We have tentative plans for an excursion in September to Laurie Andrews' farm-gone-wild in Gippsland, about 10km from Tarra-Bulga National Park. We are also considering a trip along the Old Blackspur Road led by George Start who

has access to some of the water catchment areas that are of restricted access to the public. We also have thoughts of a trip to the Byaduk Caves near Hamilton and to see the Lime Fern near Timboon.

We have no specific plans yet for our 20th anniversary celebrations, but the committee will be working on that with some urgency at the beginning of next year. We have thoughts at the moment of a dinner during the year. If you have any suggestions please let us know. We are also giving some thought to producing a video on Victorian ferns and we hope to have something under way during the year but it is likely to be a long term project, especially if we try to make it as complete a record as possible.

You will find in this issue a questionnaire

(Continued on page 4)

1998 MEETINGS & EVENTS

Committee Meeting - Friday 12th February at 7.30 p.m.
at 15 Erica Court, Blackburn North.



General Meeting - Thursday 18th February at 8.00 p.m.

The Ferns of New Zealand

Chris Goudey

Competition: A New Zealand fern.



General Meeting - Thursday 18th March at 8.00 p.m.

Fern Names?

Terry Turney?

Competition: A Deciduous Fern.



Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th March

The Great Victorian Fern Show!!

Mount Waverley Community Centre



General Meeting - Thursday 15th April at 8.00 p.m.

Looking After Your New Fern.

A discussion chaired by Bill Taylor.



GENERAL MEETING TIMETABLE:

7.30	Pre-meeting activities - Sale of ferns, spore, books, merchandise and Special Effort tickets. Also library loans.
8.00	General Meeting.
8.15	Workshops and demonstrations.
9.15	Fern identification and pathology, Special Effort draw.
9.45	Supper.
10.00	Close.

VENUE: Victoria Bowling Club, 217 Grattan Street, Carlton.



**Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the personal views of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Society, nor does mention of a product constitute its endorsement.*

.... FROM OUR PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 2)

regarding the way the Society is being run. Please take the time to put some thought into filling it in and returning it. The Society belongs to all of its members (which includes you) and it is only as we get feedback from you that we can run meetings and other activities the way you would like us to.

One change that we want to make is to get a greater emphasis on **FERNS** in meetings. To that end we are going to start asking the winners of the monthly competitions to talk for a few minutes about their winning fern and how they grow it. We are also going to start a segment titled 'My 5-Minute Fern'.

We are introducing a **Fern Marketplace** or 'Swap Shop' through the newsletter. If you have anything you would like to give, sell, swap or procure then contact our editor, Lyn Gresham,

and let her know. There is always the opportunity for members to sell surplus ferns at the meetings - but they do need to be booked in and a commission is charged.

Don't forget our major event coming up on the 27-28 March - the '**Great Victorian Fern and Vireya Rhododendron Show**'. Your help in bringing ferns for display and helping to set up on the Friday and assisting over the weekend are vital to the success of the show. But we also need everyone to come and enjoy the event and to encourage as many other people as possible to come also. The show is our major contact with the public but it is only a success if the public come and we need your help in bringing them. Fern pamphlets will be available at the show (and afterwards) for you to use yourselves or to pass around to promote ferns and the society.

Coming meeting details are:

February Chris Goudey "**New Zealand Ferns**"

5-Minute Fern: Don Fuller

Competition: A New Zealand Fern.

March Terry Turney (we hope!) "**Names and Pronunciations**"

5-Minute Fern: Barry White

Competition: A Deciduous Fern.

April As this will be the first meeting following the show, we have asked Bill Taylor to chair a discussion evening on "**Looking after your new fern**". ☺ ☺ ☺

MONTHLY COMPETITION RESULTS

November General Meeting.

Competition: A member of the Davalliaceae family

Judging was done by a panel and we had four equal firsts! The winners were;

Don Fuller's *Davallia mariesii*, Don's *D. tasmanica*

Terry Turney's *D. trichomanoides* var. *mariesii* and

Barry White's *D. solida*.

Exhibitors' draw won by Don Fuller.

Special Effort - Barry White (x2), Don Fuller,

Fran Harrison, George Start and Jean Boucher.

December Christmas Function.

Competition: Special Special Effort Hampers

Peter Theophilos won the decorated Christmas cake and Val Kissane, Don Fuller, Barry White, Lyn Gresham, Margaret Radley and Norma Hodges each took home a hamper of garden products and a Lions Christmas cake!! There was much comment about "all" the prizes going to committee members. About 25 members enjoyed the day greatly in a very pleasant setting with all mod cons at the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre. Thanks, Barbara H!!

We have A NEW COLUMN
in the magazine.

Read all about it on page 13...

Speaker Report - September 1998 General Meeting.

Ferns of Cairns and the Surrounding District.

Ian Broughton.

In June my family went away for four weeks, three of which were spent around Cairns, which was probably three years too little to spend in the area. We had a fantastic time and wished it could have been longer, especially on the Atherton Tableland where we didn't allow nearly enough time.

Before we left Chris said, "Pull up wherever you see a gully near the road, get out and have a look. That's where you'll see the ferns." He was quite right, as we proved time and time again.

Of course, you do have to pick the right gully for certain ones. I asked someone on the second last day in the area where to find *Cyathea baileyana*, the Wig Tree Fern only to be told that there was a gully up the Mount Lewis Track, where we'd already been, in which five or six are growing, but in the next five or six gullies we would miss them. We missed them. It was that easy to stumble across real finds . . . or go right past without seeing them.

Entry Permits Required.

It's difficult to get access into National Park and State Forest areas. I didn't know that ahead of time and on occasion travelled several kilometres along likely tracks only to be confronted by a sign that says

that if you go any further by car we'll come and rip your arms out or something similar. You can get out and walk, but with ten kilometres or more to go to reach our destination and a limited time in the area this became very frustrating.

With about four days to go we found out that you can get a permit to enter these areas by vehicle. We did get one for the Mount Lewis area which is just stunning.

The Crowds.

The places which had good public access were pretty crowded, even during the school term when we were there and there weren't a lot of ferns, except for the ones out along the coast. In the Cairns area there was a prevailing air of commercialism.

(Did you try the Botanical Gardens? Lots of ferns, mostly not 'tame', but I nearly expired of dehydration looking for a shop. Sometimes a spot of commercialism is not a bad thing! -Lyn)

We did try Mossman Gorge but due to bridge (dis)repairs the area we could access was crawling with tourists. *(of course, Ian was one of them but that's different -Lyn)*

I found that my Jones and Clemesha ("Australian Ferns and Fern Allies"), marvellous book though it is, was not a great help to me in identifying all the many species and varieties I found. Lots of them NEARLY looked like the examples, which left me with lots of 'maybes'. I now know about "Ferns of Queensland" which, being specific to the State, has more detail and would have been mighty handy.

Highlights.

When we first arrived we stayed at a place called Malanda (on the hills approaching the Tableland, about 40 Km inland, & SSW of Cairns) on our way to Wooroonooran National Park.

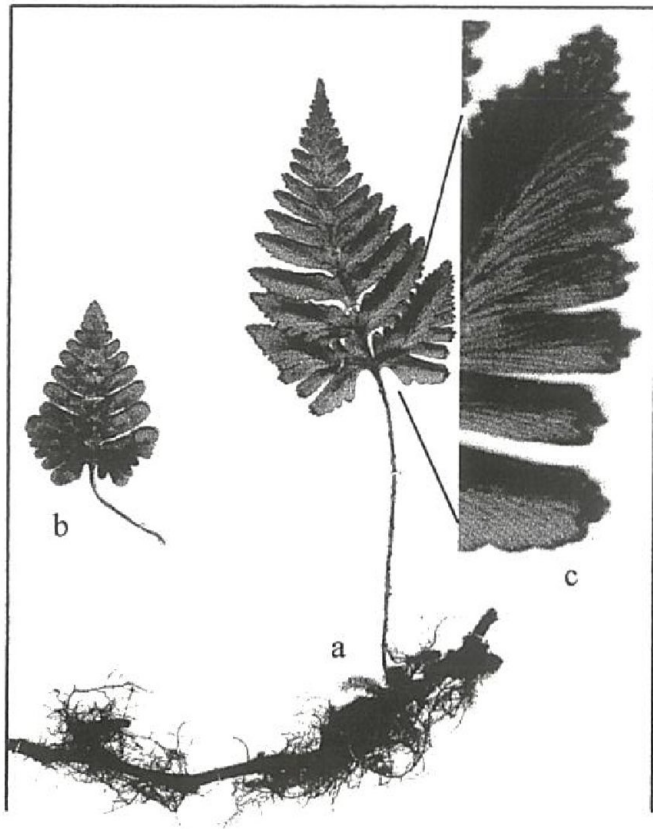
There is a well used walking track along the river with access to some of the waterfalls there. At every bend of the track, along one section at least, there was a fern I hadn't seen before! We got out onto a small lookout over the waterfall, which was built up on a gigantic tree which had obviously fallen decades ago. On it epiphytes were growing thickly, even at waist height, - things I've never even seen before. It was just stunning! In that one area of probably three or four metres by three or four metres there would have been ten or twelve species of ferns, as well as mosses and other plants I wasn't so interested in.



Pteris pacifica collected at Malanda Falls.

Take one day away from ferns...

Another highlight, particularly for the children but also for me (even though I'm not a strong swimmer) was the day we spent snorkelling on the (Barrier) Reef. It is a must if you're up there any time - so forget the ferns for one day.



Humata repens - Dwarf Hare's Foot Fern
(a) habit (b) young frond (c) closeup of fertile pinule.

Daintree N.P. & Mt. Lewis.

We went north from Cairns, through Daintree National Park on the way to Bloomfield River, which would be 60 or 70 Km south of Cooktown. Daintree N.P. is fairly well developed as far up as Cape Tribulation but beyond there it's a fairly rough 4WD track and that was a spectacular area, by far the favourite of Meryl (my wife) and I.

We also went to Mount Lewis one day and when we were deterred from going further we spent most of the day fiddling around there. Just in that area we found a whole lot of ferns we hadn't seen previously, including a couple from my 'must find' list.

Then we got the permit to enter the area and that day got probably another fifteen kilometres further in, which took us virtually the whole day - the permit was from sunrise to sunset. That was just unbelievable. We loved that area.

Mount Lewis is at about 1100 metres elevation and the track we took was about 200 metres below the summit. We considered walking to the summit but just didn't have time.

We came to another gate which wasn't locked.

There was no sign on it, but I think that was probably the south west border of the Daintree National Park. It was certainly in that region. We hope to return next year and spend three or four days in the Mount Lewis area. One of the things we would like to do is go through that gate because the nature of the forest changed right on the boundary, if that is what it was. We walked through 800 metre or so and found it superbly beautiful - the experience was quite breathtaking. There was quite heavy mist in the area, creating an ethereal beauty with *Cyathea robertsiana* popping their heads up out of the mist as we looked down over it.

There was evidence of logging having taken place there about ten years earlier but the forest was recovering very nicely.

I made a list of 123 species I found on our trip, which is almost half of those found in the region - so I've got to go back and see the other half!! 🌿

FERNS FOUND IN THE CAIRNS REGION

Listed Under Area Where First Identified

Botanical Name	Common Name
Mt Hypipamee National Park	
1 <i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	
2 <i>Angiopteris evecta</i>	Giant Fern
3 <i>Arachniodes aristata</i>	Prickly Shield Fern
4 <i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Bird's Nest Fern
5 <i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern
6 <i>Cyathea cooperi</i>	Coin Spot Tree Fern
7 <i>Davallia pyxidata</i>	NSW Hare's Foot Fern
8 <i>Dictymia brownii</i>	
9 <i>Doodia aspera</i>	Prickly Rasp Fern
10 <i>Doodia caudata</i>	Small Rasp Fern
11 <i>Drynaria rigidula</i>	Basket Fern
12 <i>Lastreopsis rufescens</i>	
13 <i>Lastreopsis wurunuran</i>	
14 <i>Lygodium flexuosum</i>	
15 <i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	Fishbone Fern
16 <i>Platycerium bifurcatum</i>	Elkhorn
17 <i>Platycerium superbum</i>	Staghorn
18 <i>Schellolepis subauriculata</i>	
19 <i>Tectaria muelleri</i>	
Millstream Falls	
20 <i>Cheilanthes pumilio</i>	
21 <i>Cheilanthes vella</i>	Woolly Cloak Fern
22 <i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Common Bracken
Malanda Falls	
23 <i>Diplazium dietrichianum</i>	
24 <i>Diplazium dilatatum</i>	
25 <i>Lastreopsis tenera</i>	Broad Shield Fern
26 <i>Pteris pacifica</i>	
27 <i>Pyrrosia rupestris</i>	Rock Felt Fern

Botanical Name	Common Name
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Wooroonooran National Park - Section	Palmerston
-----------------------------------------	------------

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 28 <i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> | Rough Maidenhair |
| 29 <i>Antrophyum reticulatum</i> | Ox Tongue Fern |
| 30 <i>Arthropteris palisotii</i> | |
| 31 <i>Asplenium baileyianum</i> | |
| 32 <i>Belvisia mucronata</i> | Needle Fern |
| 33 <i>Blechnum orientale</i> | |
| 34 <i>Callipteris proliferata</i> | |
| 35 <i>Christella parasitica</i> | |
| 36 <i>Coveniella poecilophlebia</i> | |
| 37 <i>Cyathea rebecca</i> | |
| 38 <i>Cyathea woolliana</i> | |
| 39 <i>Diplopterygium longissimum</i> | Giant Scrambling F. |
| 40 <i>Doodia media</i> | Common Rasp Fern |
| 41 <i>Lastreopsis munita</i> | |
| 42 <i>Macrothelypteris torresiana</i> | |
| 43 <i>Marattia salicina</i> | Potato Fern |
| 44 <i>Microsorium punctatum</i> | |
| 45 <i>Microsorium superficiale</i> | |
| 46 <i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i> | |
| 47 <i>Pellaea falcata</i> | Sickle Fern |
| 48 <i>Selaginella australiensis</i> | |
| 49 <i>Selaginella longipinna</i> | |

Wongabel State Forest

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 50 <i>Pellaea falcata</i> -silver form | Silver Sickle Fern |
| 51 <i>Pteris tremula</i> | Australian Brake |

Lake Eacham

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 52 <i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i> | Common Maidenhair |
| 53 <i>Asplenium pellucidum</i> | |
| 54 <i>Asplenium polyodon</i> | Mare's Tail Fern |
| 55 <i>Lindsaea obtusa</i> | |
| 56 <i>Pellaea paradoxa</i> | Cliff Brake |

Giant Red Cedar - Gadgera N. P.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------|
| 57 <i>Christella dentata</i> | Binung |
| 58 <i>Diplazium</i> sp. | |
| 59 <i>Macrothelypteris polypodioides</i> | |
| 60 <i>Nephrolepis hirsutula</i> | |

Lake Barrine

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 61 <i>Colysis ampla</i> | |
| 62 <i>Lygodium reticulatum</i> | |
| 63 <i>Pronephrium asperum</i> | |
| 64 <i>Pyrrosia confluens</i> | Robber Fern |

Skyrail

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 65 <i>Asplenium laserpitiifolium</i> | Johnston River Fern |
| 66 <i>Grammitis stenophylla</i> | |
| 67 <i>Histiopteris incisa</i> | Bat's Wing Fern |
| 68 <i>Microsorium membranifolium</i> | Pimple Fern |
| 69 <i>Platynerium hillii</i> | Northern Elkhorn |
| 70 <i>Pyrrosia longifolia</i> | |
| 71 <i>Taenitis pinnata</i> | Morse Fern |
| 72 <i>Vittaria elongata</i> | Tape Fern |

Botanical Name	Common Name
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Wooroonooran National Park -
The Boulders

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 73 <i>Asplenium nidus</i> | Bird's Nest Fern |
| 74 <i>Humata repens</i> | Dwarf Hare's Foot |
| 75 <i>Pronephrium triphyllum</i> | |
| 76 <i>Schellolepis percussa</i> | |
| 77 <i>Sphaerostephanos heterocarpus</i> | |
| 78 <i>Vittaria ensiformis</i> | Tape Fern |

Kennedy Highway

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 79 <i>Sticherus flabellatus</i> | Shiny Fan Fern |
|---------------------------------|----------------|

Lake Tinaroo - Kauri Walk

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 80 <i>Adiantum diaphanum</i> | Filmy Maidenhair |
| 81 <i>Arthropteris tenella</i> | |
| 82 <i>Blechnum nudum</i> | Fishbone Water Fern |
| 83 <i>Blechnum patersonii</i> | Strap Water Fern |
| 84 <i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i> | Rock Fern |
| 85 <i>Cyathea robertsiana</i> | |
| 86 <i>Diplazium assimile</i> | |
| 87 <i>Pteridium semibastatum</i> | Northern Bracken |



Marattia salicina - Potato Fern

Cape Tribulation - Palm Road

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 88 <i>Lycopodium cernuum</i> | Old Coral Fern |
|------------------------------|----------------|

Cape Tribulation - Marrdja Boardwalk

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 89 <i>Acrostichum speciosum</i> | Mangrove Fern |
| 90 <i>Nephrolepis acutifolia</i> | |
| 91 <i>Ophioglossum pendulum</i> | Ribbon fern |

Botanical Name	Common Name
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Cape Tribulation

- 92 Cheilanthes prenticei
93 Cyclosorus interruptus
94 Drynaria quercifolia
95 Lindsaea media
96 Pteris ensiformis

Slender Brake

Mt Lewis Track

- 97 Asplenium simplicifrons
98 Blechnum articulatum Rosy Water Fern
99 Lindsaea brachypoda
100 Platycerium sp. - Mt Lewis
101 Pteridoblechnum neglectum

Bloomfield Falls

- 102 Adiantum capillus-veneris Venus-hair Fern
103 Cheilanthes hirsuta
104 Doryopteris concolor
105 Drynaria sparsisora

Black Mountain Road

- 106 Microlepia speluncae

Davies Creek National Park

- 107 Cheilanthes sieberi Mulga Fern

Botanical Name	Common Name
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Wooroonooran National Park - Behana Gorge

- 108 Davallia denticulata
109 Schizaea dichotoma Branched Comb Fern

Mt Lewis Track - north of Mt Lewis

- 110 Blechnum whelanii
111 Christella hispidula
112 Colysis sayeri
113 Crypsinus simplicissimus
114 Ctenopteris gordonii
115 Dicksonia herbertii
116 Elaphoglossum queenslandicum Tongue Fern
117 Oenotrichia tripinnata Hairy Lace Fern

Crytal Cascades

- 118 Asplenium paleaceum
119 Pteris tripartita Giant Brake

Mt Whitfield

- 120 Christella subpubescens
121 Lomariopsis kingii

Millaa Millaa Lookout

- 122 Cyathea celebica
123 Hypolepis glandulifera Downy Ground Fern

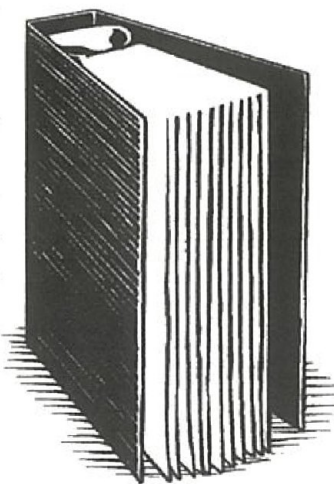
NEW FERN BOOK

reviewed by Barry White

The definitive book on the ferns of Australia is now available. Volume 48 of the Flora of Australia covering Ferns, Fern Allies and Gymnosperms has just appeared in the bookshops. It is a joint publication by the Australian Biological Resources Study and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.

It is a large book of about 750 pages with about 500 pages devoted to ferns. Authors include Peter Bostock from the Queensland Herbarium, David Jones from the National Herbarium in Canberra, R. Chinnock from the South Australian Herbarium and a number of other local and overseas fern experts.

The early sections of the book cover the structure, ecology, classification and fossil records of ferns. There are keys to families, genera and species. Detailed descriptions are given of individual species and line illustrations of particular diagnostic features are included. An



appendix lists recent alterations and maps showing species distributions.

The ferns of some more remote islands such as Lord Howe, Norfolk and Christmas are not included but are covered in separate Volumes, Numbers 49 and 50.

I suggest that this book, at least for the immediate future, should be accepted by our Society as the prime authority for the ferns of Australia, and that the fern names in this book be followed by our Society in our publications.

The book comes in paperback or hard cover. It is available from the Australian Government Printer 190 Queen St. Melbourne for \$59.95 or \$55 if you hold a Senior's Card. The hard back is \$94.95.

What Do You Think?

Members' Questionnaire.

Most garden clubs and specialist horticultural societies are facing dwindling membership. The Fern Society of Vic. Committee is keen to increase both its membership and the benefits of belonging for you. We want to respond to your needs, tastes, opinions and interests so are asking you to think about what you expect from us, what skills you can offer and where we could perhaps change direction. Then please TELL US by filling out this questionnaire. There are some general background questions, too. Please give your responses to as many of the following questions as you can.

NAME, POSTAL & E-MAIL ADDRESS, PHONE & FAX:

(optional) _____

1. Why are you a member of the Fern Society? _____

2. How long have you been a member? _____

3. How did you hear about our Society? _____

4. Apart from liking ferns, why did you join? _____

5. What are the things you like about the Society? _____

6. What Society activities do you think is, or could be, most valuable to either you, the Society or the community? _____

7. What don't you like? _____

8. What do we do which you think is least valuable, to either you, the Society or the community? _____

9. In what ways do you think it could improve? _____

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

10. What skills can you offer the Society from time to time? _____

11. How can we (a) keep our members and/or (b) attract new members? _____

12. What can we do to help you attract new members? _____

13. How can we improve the Meetings? _____

14. How can we improve the Fern Show? _____

15. How can we improve the Newsletter? _____

16. What items would you like to be able to buy from the Society? _____

17. Any suggestions about excursions? _____

18. Any suggestions about meeting topics and speakers? _____

19. Any suggestions about fundraising? (Our finances went down marginally last year and we are keen to avoid raising the membership fees.) _____

**Thank you for your co-operation. Please add your own comments on separate paper.
Return to us at P.O. Box 45, Heidelberg West, 3081 by the 10th of March.**

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

SPORE LIST

ORDERING The following spore is free to those members who donate spore. Otherwise members 20 cents per sample, non-members 50 cents, plus \$1.00 to cover postage and handling. Available at meetings or by mail from Barry White, 24 Ruby St. West Essendon Vic. 3040, Ph. (03) 9337 9793. There is no charge for overseas members however to cover postage two international coupons would be appreciated.

A booklet on spore collection and sowing is available for 40 cents or free to spore donors.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Adiantum concinnum 6/97 | Cyrtomium macrophyllum 5/97 |
| Adiantum raddianum cv. micropinnulum 1/98 | Dennstaedtia davallioides 2/98 N |
| Anemia mexicana 5/97 | Dicksonia youngii 10/98 N |
| Arachniodes aristata 8/98 N | Dryopteris athamantica 2/98 B |
| Asplenium aethiopicum 5/97 N | Dryopteris seiboldii 4/98 |
| Asplenium australasicum 5/98 N | Gymnocarpum oyamense 5/98 |
| Asplenium milnei 9/97 N B | Histiopteris incisa 5/97 N B |
| Asplenium obtusatum 4/98 B | Lastreopsis acuminata 9/98 N |
| Asplenium scolopendrium 5/97 | Lastreopsis glabella 4/98 B |
| Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum' 4/98 | Lastreopsis hispida 4/98 B |
| Blechnum attenuatum 2/98 | Lastreopsis nephrodioides 9/97 N B |
| Blechnum brazielense (red form) 6/97 | Leptolepia novae-zealandia 4/98 B |
| Blechnum camfieldii 10/97 N | Llavea cordifolia 4/98 |
| Blechnum chambersii 5/97 N B | Microlepia speluncae 5/98 N |
| Blechnum colensoi 4/98 | Microsorium pappei 12/97 |
| Blechnum discolor 4/98 B | Microsorium pustulatum ssp howensis 9/97 N B |
| Blechnum filiforme 4/98 B | Pellaea calomelanos 5/97 |
| Blechnum fluviatile 4/98 B | Pellaea falcata 5/97 N |
| Blechnum gibbum 5/98 | Pellaea viridis macrophylla 5/97 |
| Blechnum howeanum 9/97 N B | Pellaea viridis 5/97 |
| Blechnum minus 4/98 N B | Pityrogramma calomelanos v. aureoflava 6/98 |
| Blechnum patersonii 3/98 N B | Platyterium andinum 97 |
| Blechnum penna-marina 4/98 B | Platyterium bifurcatum v. willincki 2/98 N |
| Blechnum procerum 4/98 B | Platyterium bifurcatum v. willincki, (wide) 1/98 N |
| Blechnum punctulatum v. punctulatum 6/98 | Platyterium bifurcatum 6/98 |
| Blechnum sp. Kiokio (N.Z.) 4/98 B | Platyterium bifurcatum 6/98 |
| Blechnum tabulare 6/98 | Platyterium superbum 6/98 N |
| Blechnum vulcanicum 4/98 B | Pneumatopteris pennigera 4/98 B |
| Coniogramme fraxinea 5/98 | Polypodium vacciniifolium 2/98 |
| Cyathea albifrons 5/98 | Polystichum australiense 5/98 N |
| Cyathea australis 5/97 N B | Polystichum formosum 5/97 N |
| Cyathea brownii 2/98 | Polystichum munitum 8/97 |
| Cyathea cooperi 'Brentwood' 98 N | Polystichum wonrovii 11/98 |
| Cyathea cooperi 'Cinnamon' 1/98 N | Polystichum tsus-simense 5/97 |
| Cyathea cooperi 1/98 N | Psilotum nudum 9/97 N B |
| Cyathea dealbata 9/98 | Pteris argyrea 97 |
| Cyathea howeana 9/97 N B | Pteris biaurita 5/97 |
| Cyathea leichhardtiana 2/98 N | Pteris cretica 'Parkeri' 6/98 |
| Cyathea macarthurii 9/97 N B | Pteris macilenta 4/98 B |
| Cyathea muelleri 3/98 | Pteris umbrosa 6/98 N |
| Cyathea parksii 9/97 | Rumohra adiantiformis (S. Africa) 3/98 |
| Cyathea robusta 2/98 N | Rumohra adiantiformis 5/97 N B |
| Cyathea smithii 4/98 B | Scyphularia pycnocarpa 3/98 |
| Cyathea woollsiana 3/97 N | Sticherus cunninghamii 4/98 B |
| Cyrtomium caryotideum 5/98 | Sticherus tener 5/97 N B |

Thank you to the following spore donors: Shane Barry, Danny Vrkic, Keith Rogers, Fran and Ray Harrison, Lorraine Deppeler, Merle Wood, Joan Moore, Allan and Jolanda Nel, Dorothy Forte.

N.B. The letter 'N' after a fern indicates a native, and the letter 'B' one collected in the bush. The area of collection is available on

FERN SHOW 1999

or The Great Victorian Fern and Vireya Rhododendron Show.

Our Fern Show for 1999 will again be a joint venture with the Australian Rhododendron Society. The Fern and Vireya Rhododendron Show will be held on Saturday 27th March and Sunday 28th March at the Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent Mt Waverley (cnr. Mill Cres and Stephenson Rd - opposite Mt Waverley Railway Station) Melway Ref. 70 - E1.

The Show will be open from 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on both days and the admission charge Adults \$3, Concession \$2.

The Fern Show is a vital activity of our Society so it needs your support to make it a success. There are several ways that you can contribute to the success of the Show:

1. Publicise the Show
2. Contribute to the display and enter the fern competition
3. Attend the Show and help with its activities.

Publicity for the Show is well underway with arrangements made for coverage in garden magazines, newspapers and on radio. We are also in the process of contacting a large number of garden clubs. However most importantly we do need members to publicise the Show by word of mouth to friends and acquaintances interested in plants. Advertising flyers will be included with the March newsletter and will also be available at the February meeting.

We have included three new categories in the fern competition this year including one designed to provide more colour and an opportunity to display arranging skills. The eight competition categories (plus "Best Fern in Competition") are as follows:

1. Adiantum
2. Asplenium
3. Blechnum
4. Fern in Hanging Container
5. Fern with Crested Frond or Rhizome
6. Fern Ally
7. Fern with Colour Other Than Green
8. Fern Arrangement (1 fern and two non-fern plants).

The Fern Show is a great opportunity to display your best or interesting ferns so please start selecting and grooming them now. We urge as many members as practical to enter the competition and also contribute to the general display. Please ensure that all plants are clearly labelled with their botanical name and some form of personal identification to ensure safe return.

The Show Committee hope that as many members as possible attend the Show and join in the activities. We would especially like to see those many members who are unable to get to the monthly meetings. Please come along and make yourself known.

The change of venue last year was a great success, providing space for more activities. We hope that this will be the case again this year - provided we have sufficient volunteers to run the show. We are looking for people willing to help us with the following activities:

- ⇒ Demonstrators
- ⇒ Door attendants (entry and security)
- ⇒ Stewards in display area
- ⇒ People to assist in the sales area
- ⇒ People to organise and help with light refreshments
- ⇒ People with skills in setting up displays
- ⇒ People to assist in setting up and cleaning up after the show (details next newsletter). Offers of help can be made to any member of the Show Committee, who are: Jack Barrett, Ian Broughton, Don Fuller (chairperson), Lorraine and Chris Goudey, John and Norma Hodges, Bernadette Thomson and Barry White.

Members who enter the Fern Competition and contribute to the display have the opportunity to bring in ferns for sale. They must be clearly labelled with their botanical names and growing requirements and be free of pests and diseases. There is no limit on the number for sale but it should be in proportion to your competition or display. Those wishing to sell ferns can arrange to obtain a "book in" form from Bernadette Thomson (03-9399 1587).



FERN MARKETPLACE



*The column where you can buy, sell, give away,
share or request plants, equipment or whatever.*

If your spore has gone berserk and you've got more ferns than you can handle, some equipment you no longer use or something you need, you can now advertise FREE in your newsletter by seeing the Editor, Lyn Gresham, who will place your information in the next issue. Responses should be directed to the advertiser and prices negotiated with them.

I can be contacted by snailmail at 20 Murchison Road, Avenel, Vic, 3664, Phone or Fax (03) 5796 2466, E-mail address <lynrex@mcmedia.net.au> or written ads handed to me at meetings.

WANTED

Plants of the Mexican Walking Fern,
Asplenium rhizophyllum.

Ian Broughton (03) 5964 6402
or Fax (03) 5961 5831.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Recycled pots, good for growing on ferns etc,
stall sales. Asstd. sizes from tubes to 250mm
as become available, no hanging pots.

Also recycled, clean bale twine - lots!

Pick up at meetings or call in.

Lyn Gresham 5796 2466.

The Folly of Ferns?

Ian Broughton

I am green but I can't help it,
I'm a classic of a Ferny,
There's a lot of us around -
There's a Goudey and a Turney.
And when I travel northwards,
On an epic winter journey,
I drive my family round the bend,
But I can't help It - I'm a Ferny.

I find a fern I haven't seen
In a cool and shady gully.
I just have to stop and check It out,
In the dirt, my hands I sully.
I have to learn just what I can
To get to know this fern right fully.
And take photographs both of the fern,
And then its home there in the gully.

I know there's people round about
Who say ferns are just a folly.
They say, 'They never bear a flower;
They're only green and never jolly.'
But I think they are a miracle
And most intricate - by golly,
And to disagree and dislike ferns
Is just the ultimate in folly.

*Thanks to Ian for this snappy poem. . . is
there no end to his hidden talents??*





Speaker Report - August 1998.

SHADY GARDENING

with Jane Edmanson

Gardening is whatever people want it to be. Almost everyone can be described as a gardener. Whether you are a joiner of clubs or a loner, a participant or a watcher of TV garden programs, a flat dweller with a few pots or someone with a large yard - you are your own type of gardener.

What is a shady garden? Anything that is not in full sun. Shady gardens can be in full shade under dense trees, dappled shade under lightly leafed plants, seasonal shade under deciduous trees and shrubs or next to three storey buildings. There are plants which are suitable for all these spots.

Plants For Dappled Shade...

Hostas. An article about Hostas appeared in our last newsletter.

Azaleas and Rhododendrons. Most suit dappled shade though there are more and more sun tolerant varieties released each year.

Mollis Azaleas. Some of the creamy coloured ones have marvellous perfume. Mollis Azaleas need lots of old cow manure (1 bucketful a year) and a good leaf mulch.

Japanese Maples add elegance to a garden and many have beautiful, coloured foliage in autumn and spring. They prefer dappled shade.

Hellebores. There is a wonderful variety of Hellebores now available, generally with much better colour than the ones we're used to.

Platyceriums are suitable for shade and a well grown one makes a bold statement with its contrasting foliage form.

Francoa. Small ground hugging plant with beautiful lime green or dark foliage with defined veining and 'puckered' surface.

Clivia. This beautiful and useful plant is at its best planted *en masse*. Watch for colours other than the usual orange. Q: Why are Clivias so DEAR? They form a clump quite quickly, which can be divided.

Acanthus mollis grow well from full sun to quite deep shade. Caution; it can get away in the garden and in the bush where it becomes a tenacious environmental weed.

Garden Features Other Than Plants.

Ponds and other water vessels. Don't overlook the

value of using ponds and bowls in your garden. Water features harmonise particularly well with plants in a shady garden, and greatly enhance the atmosphere.

Paving is often a good idea where it is too dark for a lawn to grow or where a solid, safe path surface is needed. Paving can create an area for a table and chairs where you can entertain or just sit, relax and enjoy the garden all around you. Paving can also be used to define where people should walk in the garden - and ever-so-subtly, where they should not.

Garden 'Gossip'...

Michaelias are beautiful evergreen members of the Magnoliaceae family which flower in August and grow in full sun. They can grow to 30 ft though there are smaller varieties available.

Variegated Oregano. There is a new, variegated Oregano which has a carpeting habit.

Catmint. 70% of all cats swoooooon for about 20 to 30 minutes after coming into contact with Catmint. The remaining 30% are completely indifferent to its 'charms'.


Japanese Anemones should be cut back in July.

Create shade with creepers grown on pergolas and decorate with hanging pots.

Seasonal shade can be created by a **Laburnum walk** which is a series of arches. Breathtakingly beautiful when in flower!

In Cornwall Jane found a 150-year-old **tree fern** in beautiful condition, which Chris said came from the Adelaide hills. They have been so thoroughly plundered that there is barely a fern left anywhere. It was certainly thriving in the Cornish conditions, though.

Osmanthus requires a moist, hilly environment to grow successfully.

Kawarren, near the National Rhododendron Gardens, has the Boronia Collection of the Ornamental Plant Growers Association. 

Once again Ms. Edmanson gave us a wonderful mixed bag of informative garden talk - which delighted her audience. Jane's love of plants, gardens and gardening certainly shines through as she speaks in person (even more than on television, in my opinion). There was a lot more to her talk - conversation, really - than I have recorded here.

We were also treated to at least one free plant each which of course made Jane even more popular! You really had to be there - maybe next time.

Fern Society of Victoria Newsletter

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INORGANIC INGREDIENTS USED IN HOMEMADE POTTING MIXES

...which has absolutely nothing to do with the above.

Part of an article from the Fern Society of South Australia Inc Newsletter, No. 190, August / September 1998.

PERLITE is light and resistant to collapse. It improves drainage and aeration.

COARSE SAND helps with drainage and aeration. Double washed builders sand has been recommended.

ISOLITE keeps the mix light. It also helps with drainage and aeration.

VERMICULITE is light, contains some potassium and calcium, helps retain moisture but tends to collapse after a time.

SCORIA can be used for drainage.

DOLOMITE LIME. Add 1 tablespoon to a 2 gallon container of mix for lime loving plants. □

BUYERS' GUIDE TO NURSERIES.

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Kanerley Fern Exhibition and Nursery
Wholesale and Retail. Phone (049) 872 781.
204 Hinton Road, Osterley, via Raymond Terrace,
2324. By appointment.

QUEENSLAND:

Moran's Highway Nursery
Wholesale and Retail. Phone (07) 442 1613.
Bruce Hwy, Woombye (1 km north of Big
Pineapple; turn right into Kiel Mountain Road).
P.O. Box 47, Woombye, 4559.

VICTORIA:

Andrew's Fern Nursery / Castle Creek Orchids
Retail. Phone (03)5826 7285.
Goulburn Valley Highway, Arcadia 3813 (20 km
south of Shepparton).
Large range of ferns and orchids for beginners and
collectors.
Open daily 10am - 5pm except Christmas Day.

Austral Ferns

Wholesale Propagators. Phone (03)5282 3084.
Specialising in supplying retail nurseries with a wide range
of hardy ferns; no tubes.

Coach Road Ferns

Wholesale. Phone (03) 9758 6878. Monbulk 3793. Retail each Saturday and Sunday at Upper Ferntree Gully Market (railway station car park) Melway Ref, 74 F5. Wide selection of native and other ferns. Fern potting mix also for sale.

Fern Acres Nursery

Retail. Phone (03)5786 5031. 1052 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake West.
On main road, opposite Kinglake Primary School.
Specialising in Stags, Elks and Bird's-nest Ferns.

Fern Glen

Wholesale and Retail Phone (03)5629 2375,
D & I, Forte, Garfield North 3814.
Visitors welcome.

Kawarren Fernery

Wholesale and Retail. Phone (03)5235 8444.
Situating on the Colac-Gellibrand Road, Kawarren
(20 km south of Colac).

The Bush-House Nursery

Wholesale and Retail. Phone (03)5566 2331.
Cobden Road, Naringal
(35 km east of Warrnambool).
Ferns - trays to advanced. Visitors welcome.

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