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NEWSLETTER

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FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Single - \$13.00 Pensioner/student \$10.00

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Organisation \$15.00

Overseas - \$20.00 - Payment by international bank cheque in \$A please.

Overseas sent by Airmail.

Subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year.

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.

THE PONDERINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

Ian Broughton

At the time I would normally be preparing this report, I will be enjoying the ferntastic delights of the tropical rainforests of Northern Queensland. When I tell people we are going up to the Cairns region for a holiday, they picture lazy days spent on sun drenched beaches, sipping martinis by beckoning pools and snorkelling on the Reef. BUT, you and I know better, don't we? What greater rapture could there be than immersing oneself in the Pteridophytic Wonderland of Far North Queensland. Since first visiting the area last year, the longing to return has been almost overwhelming. Another two or three days in the Mt Lewis area are a must. We hope to go spotlighting in the area also. Permits are made available for only one group and only on Saturday nights. The track behind Mt Lewis climbs to about 1200m and there are a number of rare marsupials found around that elevation. We are also going to travel on to Cooktown this year and plan to spend a day in the Cape Melville National Park north of Cooktown. Of course the Atherton Tableland has long beckoning fingers and will be a focus of our activities. We learnt last year not to waste time in Cairns itself, though we have close friends who live there and will spend a weekend with them and we've promised to take the children to see the new Star Wars movie while we're there.

The Fernery Crawl held in May was an outstanding success. If you weren't there, you missed a very relaxed and enjoyable day and the weather couldn't have been better. We had about 37 people involved (including the Goodalls

1999 MEETINGS & EVENTS

Please remember the change of venue.



General Meeting on July 16th

VIDEOING FERN DEMONSTRATIONS.

Our first session of recording some talks and demonstrations for use at Fern Shows and Promotions. Audience required!

Five Minute Fern Talk by Fran Harrison.

Competition; The Pteris genus.

General Meeting on August 19th

FERN IDENTIFICATION FORUM.

Bring along your unidentified ferns and we'll try to give them names.

A good opportunity to either learn how it is done or hone your skills.

Five Minute Fern talk by Dick Kissane

Competition; Unidentified Ferns.

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General Meeting on September 16th

*FERNS THROUGH THE (GEOLOGICAL) AGES. JACK DOUGLAS

Five Minute Fern Talk
Competition: Ferns from fossil records.



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: Kevin Heinze Garden Centre, 39 Weatherby Road, Doncaster. (Melway 47:H1)

. . . . FROM OUR PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 50)

who made the trip down from Wodonga especially for the day) which was a much better response than expected, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our grateful thanks and congratulations go to the Barrets, Whites, Harrisons and Fullers who opened their homes and gardens to us. It was great to see the way other people go about growing ferns and overcoming some of the difficulties. As a commercial grower, I found it especially rewarding to see many plants I have grown being so well cared for and bringing pleasure to others - I still draw great pleasure in growing them and propagating from division.

Our meetings will continue to be held at the **Kevin Heinze Garden Centre** until the end of the year. If you have any thoughts on the venue, regarding its location and suitability, please let one of the Committee know. We know that it won't suit everyone, but finding a suitable venue at a good price will not be easy. We would really value any feedback you could give us.

We have, at last, come to a decision on the new logo and newsletter cover. Lyn Gresham has won the logo competition and Laurie Andrews the newsletter cover competition. Both will take some time to get into the system, but expect to see them in the foreseeable future. Congratulations to both of you for your wins and thank you for the work you both put into them.

The 21st anniversary planning is under way with the intention of having a catered spit roast in late May, 2000. If you have any suggestions or can help us to get in touch with any of the early, especially original, members of the Society or if you can offer any assistance to the sub-committee organising it, could you please get in touch with Reg and Mary Kenealy on 5963 3552, Brian and Pat Nicholls on 9836 6507 or Keith Hutchinson on 9457 2997. We really appreciate their willingness to be involved. There will be others helping also but those mentioned will be the main ones moving things along.

Terry Turney and Chris Goudey have expressed a willingness to organise us to make a **pressed fern specimen** collection of, in the first instance, Victorian ferns. This is to be kept by the President (whose wife doesn't yet know she is to have another stack of boxes to dodge) and brought to meetings to be available as resource material for members.

At our July meeting we will be making videos of demonstrations of spore propagation and propagation by division. These, along with a few others are to be used at our annual shows to reduce the need to organise live demos which often fall flat for a lack of people to watch at the designated time. The July competition category is the Pteris genus and Fran Harrison is giving the 5 minute fern talk. In August we are holding a fern identification forum. The competition category is Unidentified Ferns, so bring them along to give us some material for our forum and, hopefully, you will benefit by getting names for some of your ferns. Dick Kissane will be giving the 5 minute fern talk.

Some early notice - in September, Jack Douglas will be giving us a talk on fossil ferns titled "Ferns Through the (Geological) Ages". Jack shared his knowledge with us some years ago and it was a most informative and enjoyable evening so plan to join us in September.

Because this report was prepared some weeks earlier than usual, you will need to check elsewhere in the newsletter for any late breaking news. Thanks to George Start who is to chair the Committee and General Meetings during my absence in June - I apologise for considering FNQ to be a higher priority than attending the June meeting and I look forward to seeing you again at our July meeting.

Ian



*OPINIORS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER FIRE THE PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE FIU—

THORS AND FIRE NOT NECESSFIRLY

ENDORSED BY THE SOCIETY, NOR DOES MENTION OF A PRODUCT CONSTITUTE ITS ENDORSEMENT.

A LETTER FROM THE SHOW JUDGE.

Mrs. Mary Frost.

Firstly congratulations to all those who entered a fern in the Fern Show. If your name wasn't among the winners perhaps ypu can learn from the following advice:-

- A lot of people forgot to <u>groom</u> their ferns, by this I mean cleaning out all half dead, dead, damaged fronds. The judge does not just walk past a fern, he/she really has a look on the inside by opening up the middle of the plant. Some of the maidenhair ferns were really bad. Each section had ferns in need of grooming on 1 Nephro I counted 8 fronds that should have been removed. The hairsfoot ferns were the same, some very tacky fronds, untidy feet hanging, that should have been trimmed off or pinned back with hairpins/small pieces of wire covered so the Judge cannot see them.
- 2 All ferns when viewed from above should be circular except of course when grown on a slab and should be a ½ circle. Some when turned around were very much one sided with one side better then the other. The Judge should be able to turn the pots right around and every side should be the same.
- 3 The names of ferns should be clearly marked with own writing not the commercial labels. Small bamboo canes could be used to put names on very neatly, up above the plant and the public than can also read them without undue damage to the plant.
- 4 Fern other than green. Has any exhibitor thought about complementary coloured pots? They are available in every colour of the rainbow now, try a yellow pot and see the difference.
- 5 Fern Arrangement. (1 fern and 2 non fern plants) I thought that there would be dozens along the bench. Both entries were incorrect but I awarded prizes to encurage the exhibitors for the next show. You never ever put a pot inside a pot this means an automatic disqualification. All pots should be uniform in size eg., 3×6" or 3×8" and all the one colour!!!! I know we call ourselves "fernies" but in our ferneries we all grow other plants. What about impatiens (single, double and coloured leaf) all of which can be purchased in punnets. Other lovely plants include begonias rex, tuberous (look hard and these can be found in punnets). bromeliads, hostas (didn't someone speak on these?) streptocarpus, coleus, calathea etc.....the list is endless. For next year's show, start planning now for your displays.
- What happened to the Nephros? There used to be so many lovely ones, doesn't anyone grow them these days? There is nothing more lovely than a 10" basket of a well grown Nephro Plumosa, Kimberley Queen, Gretnea, Fluffy Ruffles, Roosveltii, Suzy Wong etc. etc. Why not include in the schedule a section for these? In closing thank you for my lovely gift for judging.

Yours in Ferns

Mary Frost.

MONTHLY COMPETITION WINNERS FOR MAY & JUNE

MAY

Fern With Unpronounceable Name

1. Don Fuller

Didymochlæna truncatula

2. Dot Forte

Doodia aspera 'Furcata'.

3. Don Fuller

Lophosorium

Exhibitor's Draw: Barry White

Special Effort: Terry Turney, Lyn Gresham (2),

Jean Boucher.

<u>JUNE</u> A Blechnum

1. Jack Barrett

Blechnum patersonii

2. Barry White

Blechnum galanum

3. Dot Forte

Blechnum filiforme

Exhibitor's Draw: Don Fuller

Special Effort: Barry White, Keith Hutchinson,

Jean Boucher, Don Fuller.

THE FERN (RAWL — VERSION 1.

Keith Hutchinson

Our fern crawl commenced on a glorious May Sunday at the home of Jack and Gwen Barrett. Their delightful sunroom was filled with potted ferns and hanging baskets. Of special note was a *Polypodium mandianum aureum* with very ruffled fronds, also several Adiantums in perfect condition. On entering Jack's garden a unique plaque greeted us;

Fern Show 2000; April 29-30.

Hispride anjoy Botanicus "Grandpa's Garden" Family – Homegrownus.

Typically Jack!

Their small back garden housed several tall tree ferns and many ground ferns, also some rare dissected Japanese maples and the largest Cupressus Greenstead I have ever seen.

The glasshouse was filled with lush potted ferns, all neatly labelled, the most unique a *Davallia teapotii* caught everyone's attention (A *D. mariesii* growing in a teapot).

Now on to Barry White's home where we enjoyed our lunch in a mini rainforest. Ferns were in abundance, every specie imaginable. Tree ferns with their trunks covered with *Davallia* or *Polypodium formosum*. Elks and Stags covered every bare wall with ground ferns planted in every nook and cranny. A chain fern *Woodwardia radicans* growing in a basket had shed several bulbils which were growing well in the ground below. Barry had several glass and bush houses full of potted ferns or sporelings ready to pot up.

A very comprehensive drip and mist system had proved very successful - I couldn't imagine trying to keep this fern oasis moist on a hot Summer day without it.

Our next home was Fran and Ray Harrison's. Their garden is quite spacious, with a glass house and a shade house built with treated pine. Their ferns were displayed very well and clearly named. A magnificent cinnamon *Cyathea cooperi* and a *Doodia aspera* with brilliant red fronds were highlights. A wire trellis in the centre of the shade house was covered with native orchids, elks and stags. A lovely *Dicksonia lanata* and several *Davallia solida*, and *D. canariense* were in excellent condition, proving that these ferns (regarded as difficult to grow in the south) can be grown successfully in Melbourne.

Our final home was Don and Margaret Fuller's in Oak Park. Here we enjoyed an excellent afternoon tea whilst looking over their ferneries. Many Aspleniums and Pteris were in excellent condition with Don's *Davallia plumosa* taking pride of place hanging in the centre of the bush house. We now realize why Don wins so many competitions!

After President Ian expressed thanks on behalf of all present to the members who had opened their homes for our enjoyment, the 40 members and friends departed reluctantly for home, declaring it had been a day to remember.

Keith Hutchinson.

*On page 56 Dot Miniken has given her version of the day.



Bracken 1999

The University of Manchester, U.K., is hosting the 4th International Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) Conference. This will take place from 20th to 26th July this year.

The issues, to be addressed by speakers from all over the globe, are inter alia "Bracken-derived risks to animal and human health, Climate issues, Ecology and Bracken control measures and management."

Fern Society of Victoria Inc. LIBRARY BOOKS

	TITLE	AUTHOR	PAGES	NOTES
1.	Fern Lessons.	Los Angeles International Fern Society	100+	Descriptions and diagrams of numerous ferns originally published in LAIFS magazine.
2.	Ferns of Victoria and Tasmania.	N. A. Wakefield	84	Excellent small book published 1975. B&W line drawings and plates.
3.	Ferns.	Roger Grounds	264	British ferns.
4.	Ferns and Fern Allies of NZ.	E. Heath & R. Chinnock	46	Descriptions and col. drawings.
5.	What Fossil Plant is That?	J. G. Douglas	86	Fossil plants of Victoria - predominantly ferns.
<u> </u>	Flora of Thailand - Pteridophytes - Parts 1, 2 & 3.	M. Tagawa & K. I. Wasal	ci	Thai ferns - scientific descriptions and line drawings.
7.	Ferns of the Home and Garden.	Gillean Dunk	127	Published in Australia - well illustrated B&W, some colour plates.
8.	Maidenhair Ferns in Cultivation.	C. Goudey	336	Descriptions and colour illustrations for each.
9.	Ferns and Fern-allies of the United States and Canada.	D. B. Lellinger	389	Scientific descriptions with some colour illustrations.
10.	The Genus Davallia in Cultivation.	Barbara Joe Hoshizaki	51	Descriptions and B&W drawings of cultivated haresfoot ferns.
1 1.	The Observers Book of Ferns.	Francis Rose	128	Small illustrated book on English ferns.
12.	Ferns in Australia.	D. L. Jones & C. Goudey	128	Australian and exotic ferns - descriptions, cultivation, numerous colour plates.
13.	Growing Ferns.	Ray Best	80	Published in Australia - good book for beginners.
14.	Ferns from Mother Nature.	J. E. Gick	40	Numerous good colour illustrations.
15.	Platycerium Hobbyists Handbook.	Roy Vail	171	Staghorns and Elks. B&W plates.

We are indebted to our Librarian, David Radford for the work he does so we can borrow from our extensive library and for the considerable time and effort he put into compiling this list of some of them, to whet our appetites. Thank you David for the prompt response to the committee's request!!

Part 2 will appear in the next issue and subsequent lists will follow as opportunity allows.

Do you know that we have a postal library service available for country or homebound members? Phone David

on 9598 8398 (evenings) for more details.

THE FERN (RAWL — VERSION 2.

Dot Miniken

Fern Show 2000; April 29-30.

The 2nd May was a lovely Autumn Day. Just the sort of day to see ferns at their best, so about 40 people turned up at Jack and Gwen Barretts home for the first leg of our Crawl. Four ladies from out of town breezed into the wrong back yard, (and I'm not confessing who the

guide was. Anyway, it was just across the road and up a bit - Lyn) to the great surprise of the gentleman in No. 10! After quickly apologising we were shown to the right house.

The Barretts' delightful garden is compact and beautifully landscaped, with two very nice tree ferns, ferns by the hundred (thousand?) and some lovely conifers. It was interesting to see how Jack had built the bottom of his shadehouse wall by putting venetian blind slats interwoven around the outside for about 3 feet up - excellent idea. His garden plaque drew attention, too (See page 54). This attractive garden makes very good use of colour, texture and contrast.

Next we moved on to Barry White's home, a lovely, restful garden where we all sat surrounded by ferns, relaxed and enjoyed lunch and a cup of tea or coffee supplied by our host. We all appreciated the refreshments. We then toured his attractive garden, peeping into all the sheds and shadehouse at all the lovely ferns. Barry has designed the large shadehouse area to accommodate as many ferns as possible in an attractive display, while providing for the various needs of each of the occupants. The pond added a lovely touch to the setting of the ferns. His elks and stags were magnificent.

Next, to Fran and Ray Harrison's, another different garden, with more and more lovely ferns. The use of pine posts

and reo-style benches (full of a lovely variety of ferns) and walls in the shadehouse creates a pleasant, airy atmosphere. On these walls are more ferns and also orchids, their other botanical passion. Wandering around this beautiful garden, you see no evidence of the extensive damage to the fern area during a storm not so long ago in fact, the disaster has been turned into an opportunity to improve the garden. Some wonderful, mature ferns - the stags and birdsnests are huge!

Now on to Don and Margaret Fuller's, yet another style of garden but still with lots more species of fern. There we had afternoon tea, organised by our host and liberally supplied with Margaret's yummy cooking, I suspect. The front porch is a perfect suntrap and here grow to perfection some of the ferns most of us find difficult to grow. Don and Margaret have lots of ferns in the rather sloping back garden which has been used to the best advantage, creating various habitats to suit them. Another delightful garden, well worth the visit.

Over afternoon tea, Ian Broughton thanked our four host families for opening their homes and gardens. Jack Barrett responded on behalf of the hosts, thanking so many people for turning up.

It was great to see the different ideas and conditions of growing ferns. It was a great social day, enjoyed

by all. Thank you one and all for your lovely hospitality.

Dot Miniken.

Speaker Report - April 1999 General Meeting

LOOKING AFTER YOUR NEW FERN BILL TAYLOR.

Over the years there has been a lot of contention about where to buy your ferns and what condition they are in. Those who buy from the Society's monthly meetings are really spoilt. The plants Ian and Chris bring in are fresh from the wholesale nursery and you know there's no risk of contamination because neither grower will take a plant out unless it is clean.

When selecting a new plant, no matter how nice and healthy it looks it is a good idea to look further; around the base of the plant and the roots (yes, you are quite entitled to upend the pot and lift it to examine the growing medium and visible roots) for new growth and vigour.

There is always the risk that your new fern may be carrying disease so it is good practice to put it 'in quarantine', separate from your other plants and to spray it (not just the foliage but around the crown of the plant and also drench the surface of the potting medium, in case of mealy bug which, if present, will come from there up onto your plant). My standard spray is 5 drops Rogor or Foliamat in 5 litres of water with full strength Carbaryl. You can put a bit of Benlate in it and you have an all-round spray to get your fungi and your insect pests. That spray will clean your ferns up completely. If after a week or ten days it still looks healthy it can be put in with the others. One thing I always do, too, is repot it into my own potting mix. Then you have standardised the watering and nothing will be too dry or still too wet when the next watering comes around.

When you are selecting a new plant and are attracted to one that looks very nice, look at the name of it and then try to find out where it grows; what country, what altitude, what habitat (eg., high on a hill, on a slope, down in a valley or in a creek) and then buy it if you think you can provide a situation in which you can grow it to the ultimate. It is most important to get the water factor and the light factor right. Now not all of this information will be on the label so you need to go further - observe it in the bush or in other people's gardens, consult fern books or ask the vendor or other fern growers.



Many tropical or subtropical ferns will grow happily here because their native habitat is not necessarily hot and steamy - it may be the highlands of New Guinea which, apart from the high rainfall, has a climate very similar to that of Melbourne.

Drainage

Whether ferns are grown in baskets, on treefern logs or in the ground, they DO like good drainage. The exception is bog plants.

I've found treefern logs to be excellent for many types of plants, not just ferns. The treefern can be as heavy as lead and yet the plants don't seem to worry because the moisture is not staying stagnant in it, it's wet but the aeration is still good and the roots can breathe. I know of a Vireya rhododendron which has been in the same treefern log for 35 years and is in supurb condition - healthy and flowering profusely.

Potting Mixes

Potting mixes have been a thing with me for many years. I've trialled commercial potting mixes with unsatisfactory results and tried and tried to make my own mixes and I've found that using three types of autumn leaves, oak, plane and liquidambar, gives me the best results. The leaves of these three trees can be buried for twelve months and you wouldn't think they were any different because they don't start to decompose. But if you shred them and bag them up slightly damp, into plastic bags, after six to eight weeks they will just be starting to get nice and

(Continued on page 58)

(Continued from page 57)

soft. I chose these three types of leaves because they won't go gluggy, as most deciduous leaves will. Even after three or four years in the bags, just moist, they won't have decomposed.

In your wheelbarrow, add about 50% of whatever you like to your leaves - pinebark, treefern fibre, treefern fronds, bracken, sandy loam, sterilized mountain soil (if you can get it) lignapeat or your favourite potting mix and a slow release fertiliser. Osmocoat Plus has all the minerals and trace elements needed. Or you can use just shredded leaves if you like, though in that case you must address the need for nitrogen (the bacteria factor). This mix can be varied to suit the ferns you've got.

There ensued a discussion on pests and chemical pesticides, several members contributing their opinions and observations.

Mealy bug

You need to examine your new plant with a microscope or magnifying glass because by the time you can see mealy bug, it's thoroughly established.

If present, it is better to sacrifice the plant than infest your whole fernery. Seal it, pot and all, in a plastic bag and put it in the bin or burn it.

Putting an infested plant in a plastic rubbish bin with a Pest Strip doesn't work. The fumes might kill the plant or at least burn the fronds but the mealy bug will survive.

The Safety Factor

Confidor is supposed to be safer than Rogor. It is S5 or S6 whereas Foliamat and Rogor are S7. To spray commercially with Foliamat these days you have to get a licence so, though it is available in our nurseries (and one wonders how) extreme care is needed when using it. It is very persistent - your spray equipment will hold the smell for two or three years.

Watch your 'use by' dates - out of date chemicals are often impotent. Also watch the 'fine print' about the life of a solution. It is usually very short.

Telstar and Mavrik are similar. They are broad spectrum insecticides. Telstar is a synthetic pyrethroid compound

which is residual for about fective than Mavric for treatever, is good for mites (not as and very good for thrips. sive but the dilution rate is so

There is a residual to be careful to use the water sive), not the oil based one.

You need to use two or vent immunity to one chemipletely different chemicals thing different. two weeks, making it more efing caterpillars. Mavric, howfull control of red spider mite) Both products are quite expenlow that it lasts for ages.

Pyrethrum but on ferns you need based one (which is quite expen-

three products in rotation to precal. They must contain comthough, not just be called some-



Shade and Light.

Different ferns require different light intensities. They will be more vigorous and healthy, neither stunted nor lanky, if their light requirements are known and provided for. However, without actually measuring the light in their natural habitat it is difficult to be exact.

White shadecloth appears to be the best because although it lets through a little bit more heat, it seems to shade as well as any other colour. It provides a better light intensity than the others and light intensity is what plants generally like because they cannot photosynthesise without it.

Warning; white cuts down the ultraviolet light but not the visible and infrared light, which will bleach ferns, particularly the lighter coloured ones. It does produce hardier plants which tend to be more compact. It's good for flowering plants (Vireyas certainly like it) and good for ferns if there is a bit of other shade, eg., from an overhanging tree. It also gives a couple of degrees more protection from frost.

Any coloured shadecloth between black and white has visible light protection in relation to its depth of colour, which means that beige is not much safer than white and dark green is almost as protective as black.

It would be interesting to trial the pale rose pink one that is available now. In the cut flower industry pink plastic is being used because the red part of the spectrum enhances growth and colour in plants.

My Favourite Fern #5. Pteris hendersoni Keith Hutchinson

During our 1998 fern show I bought a small *Pteris hendersoni*.

I potted it into a standard potting mix with a little Osmocote and it has grown into a beautiful specimen 50cm high. I find it does very well indoors providing it gets a well lit position and an occasional spell in my fernery. It responds well to a weak solution of liquid fertiliser once a month and I have not found it prone to any pests to date.

I'm not sure of its origin but believe it to be Indonesia so it is therefore a tropical fern. Nevertheless it was quite at home in my fernery for the duration of last winter. I would recommend it to any fern lover, even those just starting a collection.



Fern Society of Victoria on the Internet

The Fern Society may now be found on the internet at the following address: http://gardenbed.com/vicferns

The site contains general information about our Society, an article on establishing a fernery by Chris Goudey, some basic information on ferns, and a spore list. It is proposed to add new information to the site on a regular basis.

Some Other Fern Places of Interest on the Internet

Fernet

macjordomo@koning.ecsu.ctstateu.edu

This is a world wide discussion group where questions, answers and comments come in from fern growers and botanists. Anyone can belong.

To subscribe send an E-mail to the address above with the following message.:

SUBSCRIBE FERNET First Name Last Name

British Pteridological Society

http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/bps/index.htm

Information on the BPS, Information and images of ferns, details of pteridological projects organised.

David Nicholls, Canberra

http://www.home.aone.net.au/byzantium/ferns/gallery/index.html

Contains information about the wild ferns in the Canberra region, where they grow, their ecology, with many photos and detailed descriptions. It also contains a selection of fern images from the Cairns region.

Well worth a visit.

Peter Richardson, U.K.

http://www.angelfire.com/nv/PeterR/index.html
Photo of ferns from New Zealand and Hawaii,
cultivation of Gleicheniaceae, in-vitro culture of
ferns, a page on Lord Howe Island, Peter's backyard, Three photos of Ely Cathedral
Also well worth a visit.

American Fern Society

http://www.visuallink.net/fern/index.html
Information on the American Fern Society
Spore Exchange, Basic Fern Biology, Growing Tips

San Diego Fern Society

http://www.inetworld.net/sdfern/





Information on the Society
Fern Growing Information, Fern Identification
Experts, Fern Plant and Spore Sources, Fern
Societies Worldwide, Fern Book Resources.

Hardy Fern Foundation (USA)

http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~sueman/ Information on the Society

Los Angele Intrnational Fern Society (LAIFS)

http://www.southwest.net/users/mrmcd/ laifs1.htm

Contains information on the Society, basic fern information and picture gallery

Fern society of South Africa

http://mzone.mweb.co.za./residents/vdlindea/ homepage.html Information on the Society Spore Bank, Information on Southern Africa Ferns and Fern Allies

Japan Pteridological Society

http://133.95.154.17:591/pterid/index.html
Contains a flora of Japan database,
An index to chromosomes of Asian Pteridophytes,
A page on isoetes.

Subscription Renewal

It's time to renew your subscription to our Society! We are keen to keep you 'in the family' so please forward a renewal form with your cheque/money order or bring it to a meeting soon.



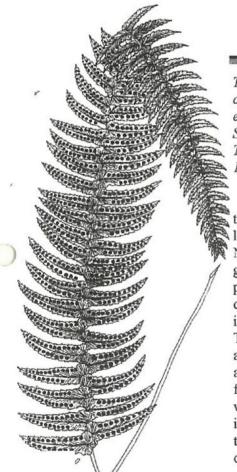
The form in this issue can be used for renewing your membership. The completed form should be forwarded with the appropriate remittance to:

The Membership Secretary, Fern Society of Victoria Inc., P O Box 45, Heidelberg West, Vic, 3081.

*Please check the details of your name and address on the mailing label this newsletter comes in and make any corrections or alterations necessary. Our records will then be updated. We don't want to mislay you!!

GROWING NEPHROLEPIS

Boston Ferns and Their Relatives.



The following article is from the Western Australian Fern Society NEWSLETTER dated June 1999.

Boston ferns and their relatives belong to the genus Nephrolepis. genera grows well in pots or baskets, indoors and outdoors in a warm climate. They are epiphytes and prefer bright, airy places. The fronds are more lush with ample humidity and fertilization, the common cause of poor growth is under-watering or

over-watering and low humidity. Some of the fancy forms of Boston ferns are quick to show the effects of poor cultural conditions and may soon go yellow and shed their leaflets.

Nephrolepis plants produce long, scaly, hairlike stems or stolons, they don't mind being rootbound. To grow them, it is best to use an epiphytic soil mix, or a mixture of half sand and half peat moss. Most species can be propagated by spores (except the Boston fern and derivatives), by division or more commonly by stolons. Stolons produce new plants by touching the soil, they can also be propagated by meristem culture which is another word for tissue culture.

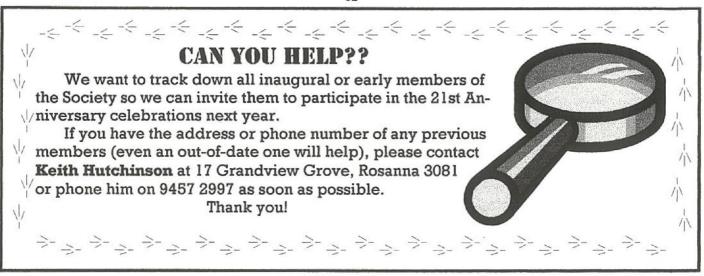
Some Nephrolepis ferns produce fronds as long as five feet, some broad and some narrow and can be used ornamentally for floral arrangements.

Nephrolepis ferns are sensitive to a wide range of sprays. White oil is safe to use in cool weather but if applied at full strength when the temperature is hot, stunting can be expected. If using in warm weather, use at one third to one half strength.

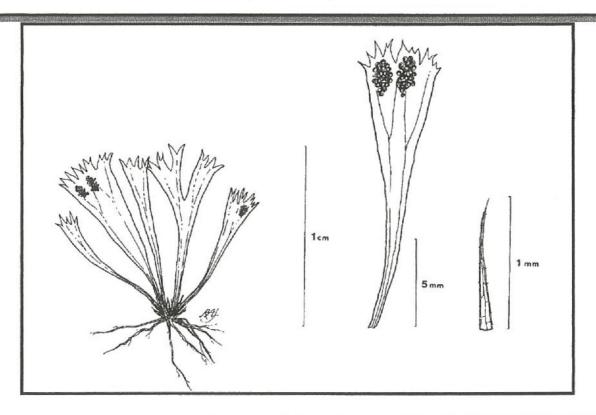
Tubers are swellings which develop on underground stems or stolons. They act as both a storage organ and a reproductive unit.

Fishbone ferns, Lace ferns and Sword ferns Nephrolepis is a very adaptable group of ferns. They
grow in full sun to shade and most will grow in a wide
range of soils provided there is good drainage. However,
most prefer an acidic soil and this can be easily achieved
with the addition of pinebark or pine needles. Azalea and
Camellia soil mixes can be used as they are more acidic
than alkaline.

All Nephrolepis like plenty of water, especially during the warmer months, but in temperate regions are best kept drier during the winter months.



The Smallest Fern? Hecistopteris pumila.



Also once known as Gymnogramma pumila, this tiny (10-20 favouring palms, and can also rarely be found on wet rocks or mm) epiphytic fern is the sole species in the genus logs. It has very fine, stoloniferous roots which bear tufts of Hecistopteris. It is placed in the subfamily VITTARIOIDEAE fronds at intervals and the fronds are described as 'thin-(which includes the genera Hecistopteris, Anetium, Polytaenium herbaceous'. and (probably more familiar to us) Vittaria.

known ferns.

from Mexico to Brazil. It is also 'very rare', possibly extinct, in Society of London in 1961. Puerto Rico. It grows on mossy moist tree trunks, particularly

I have a fascination for all plants small, so this brave little beauty The generic name of Hecistopteris is derived from the Greek interested me when I read about it in a book from our library. hekistos, least × pteris, fern because it is one of the smallest "Ferns of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands" is written by George Richardson Proctor, a Botanist, assidious plant collector and specialist of Caribbean flora, which became his life work. The known distribution of H. pumila is Greater Antilles, Guade- He is or has been a member of the American Fern Society and loupe, Martinique, Trinidad and continental tropical America many other societies and was elected a Fellow of the Linnean

-Lyn Gresham

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Lastreopsis acuminata 9/98 N Lastreopsis glabella 4/98 B Lastreopsis hispida 4/98 B Lastreopsis nephrodioides 9/97 NB Leptolepia novae-zealandia 4/98 B Llavea cordifolia 4/98 Macrothelypteris torresiana2/99 N Microlepia speluncae 5/98 N Microsorum pappei 12/97 Microsorum pustulatum ssp howensis 9/97 N B Pellaea calomelanos 5/97 Pellaea falcata 5/97 N Pellaea viridis 5/97 Pellaea viridis macrophylla 5/97 Pityrogramma calomelanos v. aureoflava 6/98 Platycerium andinum 97 Platycerium bifurc. cv. Hilo/99 N Platycerium bifurc. cv.HulaHands /99 N Platycerium bifurc. cv.Roberts /99 N Platycerium bifurc. var.venosa "Mt.Lewis" /99 N Platycerium bifurc.cv Willinckii Scofield /99 N Platycerium bifurcatum 6/98 Platycerium hillii /99 N Platycerium superbum 6/98 N Platycerium superbum (Cairns) /99 N Pneumatopteris pennigera 4/98 B Polypodium vaccinifolium 2/98 Polystichum (crested) 10/98 Polystichum australiense 5/98 N Polystichum formosum 6/99 N Polystichum munitum 8/97 Polystichum retroso-paleaceum 10/98 Polystichum wonrovii 11/98 Polystichun tsus-simense 5/97 Pronephrum asperum 3/99 N Psilotum nudum 9/97 N B Pteris argyrae 97 Pteris biaurita 5/97 Pteris cretica 'Parkeri' 6/98 Pteris macilenta 4/98 B Pteris umbrosa 6/99 N Rumohra adiantiformis 5/97 N B Rumohra adiantiformis (Cape Form) 2/99 Scyphularia pycnocarpa 3/98 Sticherus cunninghamii 4/98 B Sticherus urceolatus 3/99 N B Thayeria cornucopia 2/99

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

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