

Fern Society of Victoria Inc. NEWSLETTER



Lastreopsis acuminata
- Laurie Andrews 1999

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Volume 21 Number 6 - November / December 1999

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 45, Heidelberg West, Victoria, 3081

OFFICE BEARERS:

President:	Ian Broughton	Phone	(03) 5964 6402
Imm. Past President	Chris Goudey	"	5282 3084
Vice-President	George Start	"	5962 5059
Secretary	Barry White	"	9337 9793
Treasurer	Don Fuller	"	9306 5570
Membership Secretary	John Oliver	"	9879 1976
Spore Bank Manager	Barry White	"	9337 9793
Librarian	David Radford	"	9598 8398
Editor	Lyn Gresham	"	5796 2466

("Kilpara", Goulburn Valley Hwy, Mangalore, Vic, 3663)

Book Sales Ivan Traverso " 9836 4658

(19 Alta Street, Canterbury, Vic.. 3126)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Jean Boucher 9707 1592, Lyn Gresham 5796 2466,
Jack Barrett 9375 3670, Gay Stagoll 9844 1558, Norma Hodges 9878 9584.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

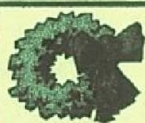
Single -	\$13.00	Pensioner/student \$10.00
Family -	\$15.00	Pensioner Family \$12.00
Organisation	\$15.00	
Overseas -	\$20.00 - Payment by international bank cheque in \$A please.	
	Overseas sent by Airmail.	

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 PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Ian Broughton

I trust that you have been enjoying Spring - having lots of pleasure and fern. The season has been going well for the nursery industry. It has probably been the best Spring for eight or nine years and it is great to see all the retailers smiling again.

Since the last edition of the Newsletter, we have had a couple of great meetings. At our September meeting Jack Douglas gave us a very entertaining and informative presentation about fossil ferns. In October Bob Fletcher, of Fletchers Fern Nursery, spoke about palms and cycads. He brought along a number of display plants from his collection of over 40 species that can be grown around Melbourne (including some that will tolerate temperatures down to -15°). I think all of us were surprised by the range of foliage, form and growth habits found in palms. Thanks to both of these gentlemen for sharing their knowledge with us.

Next month Barry Stagoll will be giving us a trip talk. I'm not sure where he will be taking us but it is sure to be interesting. The competition category is to be the Lady Ferns - the Athyrium and Diplazium genera - and the 5 Minute Talk will be presented by Lyn Gresham.

(Continued on page 85)

1999-2000 MEETINGS & EVENTS

General Meeting on Thursday 18th November

TRIP TALK - "Wish You Were There"

Barry Stagoll

Five Minute Fern Talk; Lyn Gresham "Mangalore's local fern star"

Competition; *Athyrium* and *Diplazium* (Lady Ferns)

~~~~~

Sunday 5th December

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION and ANNUAL BREAKUP

from 12 noon

at Kevin Heinze Garden Centre, 39 Weatherby Road, Doncaster.



BYO BBQ meat, cool drinks, your crockery & cutlery, plants to sell and a wrapped, labelled gift to exchange. This is a lovely Centre with plenty of seats, shade and creature comforts. The Committee has organised salads, sweets, some interesting videos, a quiz, lots of lucky draws, the gift exchange, monster plant sale - and don't forget to collect your sporelings! See Ian's 'Perspective' on P. 85 for more details.

It might be a chance to meet some more of our country members. Access from the North is a breeze now, with the ring road open on the Eastern side of Sydney Rd. For exact directions ring Lyn or Rex on 5796 2466 (evenings).

We had a great day last year and hope you can make it there on December 5<sup>th</sup>.



~~~~~

*The first meeting next year will be on Thursday 19th February at 39 Weatherby Road.
Fern Show 2000 is on April 29th - 30th.*

The Society's 21st Anniversary is on 21st, May, 2000.

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### 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)

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



# GOODS FOR SALE TO MEMBERS



The following items are available  
for members to purchase at meetings or by arrangement  
by contacting Don Fuller (9306 5570).

- ⇒ **Pot Labels**

|       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| 90mm  | 25 for \$1.00 |
| 135mm | 15 for \$1.00 |
- ⇒ **Pilot Marking Pens** (ultrafine) \$2.50  
(fine) \$2.50
- ⇒ **Maxicrop fertilizer** (bulk - price per litre) \$7.00
- ⇒ **Hanging Baskets** (Superliners)  
Galvanised Spiral Baskets with Liners  
Sizes 20cm (8"), 25cm (10"), 30cm (12") and 35cm (14") are normally in stock  
but other sizes, styles and colours can be ordered by arrangement.  
Price according to size.
- ⇒ **Replacement Liners** for above baskets.  
Prices according to size.



The following 'souvenir' items are available for members  
to purchase at meetings and the Christmas function or  
by arrangement by contacting Barry White (9337 9793).

- ⇒ **Official F. S. V. mugs** Dark green with gold trim,  
fern motif and lettering. Fine quality, generous size \$7.00 each
- ⇒ **Official F. S. V. drinking glasses** Clear glass  
with gold trim, motif and lettering. \$4.00 each

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*A pair of the mugs or glasses makes a lovely gift for your family and friends.  
A gardener would also appreciate the gift of any of the other items advertised.  
They are good quality items which we bulk purchase and so can offer at low  
prices as a service to our members. Not to be resold.*





The fern Society of Victoria wishes  
all its members a



Happy Christmas  
and a peaceful, fernful  
New Year, Century  
& Millenium!!

## PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES

*(Continued from page 82)*

The Christmas meeting is to be a BBQ at the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December, commencing at 12 noon. BYO meat and drinks other than tea and coffee. Also bring crockery and cutlery. Salads and sweets will be provided. Also, please bring a wrapped gift (for the same gender as yourself - ie., male bring for male etc. and identify whether for male or female) up to \$5 value. We will have our usual raffle.

At our Christmas meeting we are going to hold a Members' Plant Sale Day. We would encourage each member to bring along plants of any kind (not just ferns) to sell. There will be a limit of 20 plants per member and the usual commission of 15% will go to Society funds. For the sale to be a success, we encourage you to bring along plenty of money to fill the gaps in your gardens.

We are also planning on starting a growing competition at the Christmas meeting. You will be given a clump of sporelings to take home and tube up, feed, water, nurture and report as necessary. Then, from time to time, you will be requested to bring your plants to a meeting and we will compare progress. The grower of the best plant will win great fame, fortune and honour above their wildest expectations - or, maybe, a pat on the back and words of encouragement.

The Committee is presently putting together a program for next year and we would really appreciate your help or input. Please, if you have any suggestions or comments, let one of us know - our phone numbers are all in the front of the Newsletter.

The time of our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary (21<sup>st</sup> May, 2000) is approaching. If you can offer any help in contacting any of our early members, please ring me or any of the other committee members.

Looking forward to seeing you at the November and December meetings.

IAN BROUGHTON



# MY FAMILY'S TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND

By Kathy Goodall.

On our recent trip to New Zealand in January 1998 my husband (Adrian), daughter (Jessica) and I came across some lovely fern areas. One in particular stays embedded in my mind, as it reminded me of the movie "Against the Wind".

We had a campervan and didn't plan on staying in a Caravan Park until we came across a sign saying "Caravan Park with 5 acres Natural Bush Setting" near Woodville.

Our campervan developed a mind of its own, somehow the brakes were applied and the next thing we were heading towards the Hawera Caravan Park. Upon entering we couldn't see any bush setting, so went in search of someone to help us. Apparently it was hidden behind a row of hedges.

In the park itself, trees were covered from top to bottom with *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* (Leather Leaf Fern). It was so lush and green, I thought if only I could grow it this well at home in Wodonga (Victoria). I can now only fantasize about it in our fernery, unfortunately.

It was getting quite late in the evening, so we decided to just have a very quick look at the Natural Bush Setting, leaving Jessica back at the van waiting for her tea, and take our time the next morning to take photos and videos.

We passed through these very old iron gates. Upon entering, you could feel this eerie feeling. It was just on dusk and with dappled sunlight which gave us a feeling of eeriness, yet we wanted to explore. There were lots of different pathways to follow and I didn't want to miss anything.

Ferns were abundant up trees and on the forest floor. Here is what we found:

**Asplenium bulbiferum** (Hen and Chicken) nearly 4 feet (120cm) high, clumps of them, all covered with bulbils. A 'must have' in any garden.

**Asplenium polyodon** (Mares-Tail) with fronds also 4 feet long. One of my favourite ferns.

**Asplenium oblongifolium** (Shining Spleenwort) 2 metres round and looking so lustrous, huge clumps everywhere as you turned every corner.

**Blechnum fluviatile** (Ray Water Fern).

**Blechnum ?**

**Phymatosorus scandens** (Fragrant Fern) Everywhere on tree branches, even on the ground in large

clumps, this is another favourite of mine, doing quite well in a hanging basket in my fernery.

**Phymatosorus diversifolium** (Kangaroo Fern). Growing on the trees and along the ground, so lush. We've tried training it up a tree fern trunk, but with no luck. Seems to want to grow in the opposite direction. The shovel will show it the right direction shortly!

**Leptopteris hymenophylloides** (Single Crepe) Only upon entering in the first ten minutes. I thought I might find *L. superba* here but luck wasn't with me.

What an astonishing garden! Yes, I did say 'garden' as it had lots of wonderful garden plants; perfect, deepest blue and whitest of white hydrangeas (huge plants with enormous flower heads), aspidistra, ivy, palms and many more, too many to mention. There were also bulbs of all sorts scattered throughout.

As we left the perimeter of the park to move to the centre we just couldn't believe our eyes, as we came across a mammoth pond with a three tier fountain all in disrepair and very overgrown. I just stood there and imagined it many years ago with the water flowing over the edges of the fountain, and all the wildlife about, wild ducks and maybe a pair of black swans, with eels and goldfish in the bottom of the pond with colourful waterlilies floating on the water's surface and sunlight just peeping through the trees, giving a glistening shine on the water. Then I came back to reality and saw a garden that once was. The former pond was empty, but in its day would have been a great spectacle.

Upon leaving this area it brought back memories of watching 'Against the Wind', thinking of the beautiful mansion Tara which could be around the next bend. Sadly it wasn't so onward we went, finding more ferns. Large branches that had fallen down to the forest floor were covered with *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Phymatosorus scandens* and *Asplenium bulbiferum*. This was a sad sight to see as I could have seen it growing in a section of our fernery, if only we could buy these sorts of specimens back home in Wodonga.

Looking at our watch, we found that we had been in there a very long time, between two and three hours, while poor Jessica was still waiting for tea - it was 9 o'clock! We hurried back only to get told off, "I didn't think you were ever coming back," she said. It gets dark very late over in N.Z. - so much for a quick look that night.



*(Continued from page 86)*

Morning broke, breakfast finished and one more quick look to take some photos and video footage, telling Jessica we won't be long, come with us to explore this magical place. Once again hours later we came venturing out, as we found more paths we missed the night before. Jessica did admit it was beautiful and something to remember.

If I were you, this is one place I would put on my list to visit. New Zealand is a majestic place and I can't wait to

go back there at some other time in my life. I still dream of all the beautiful ferns that I have seen.

I promised this letter to Lyn not long after we returned from N.Z. and I have finally finished. I went back to N.Z. with the Fern Society in March 98 then started renovating our house, we built on a second half and have just about finished. Then I ran out of printer ink, weeks passed, now have ink and you have finally got my letter - better late than never!!

Kathy Goodall.



#### SOME N.Z. FERNS THE GOODALLS SAW

Clockwise from top; Leather-leaf Fern, Kangaroo Fern, Kiwakiwa, Hen and Chicken Fern, Shining Spleenwort, Fragrant Fern.



# President's Annual Report

## September 1999.

As I think about my first year as President of the Society, I am still glad that I decided to accept the nomination last year. I was just one of those members who hadn't undertaken his fair share of the running of the Society and I realised that this was the time for me to pitch in and help. I have continued to enjoy a greater degree of commitment to, and involvement in, the Society and I expect that to be the case for the next 12 months also.

The last 12 months have seen their share of difficulties and challenges. Probably the biggest hurdle has been the loss of our meeting venue at the Victoria Bowls Club. After investigating many possibilities around the Collingwood and Fitzroy areas and elsewhere, and with the loss of the Bowls Club at very short notice in the end, we decided that our only viable option was to move to the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre, which was arranged by John and Norma Hodges, until at least the end of this year. With the apparent lack of any viable alternative, we are intending to go on meeting here into next year. The committee would appreciate any suggestions of other venues - we need accessible parking, the venue needs to be in a 'savoury' area (which counted against Collingwood Secondary College), it needs to be accessible from the northern and eastern suburbs where most of the attending members come from and it needs to be at a cost of not too much more than \$50 a night.

Organisation of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (which quickly became our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary) is another challenge which is presently at hand. Many grateful thanks to the Hutchinsons, Kenealys, Nicholls, George Start and others who are working to get it up and running.

Nearly 40 members attended our inaugural Fernery Crawl and enjoyed delightful weather and a fantastic day of socialising and sticky-beaking in other people's ferneries. I suspect that not all the green faces were reflecting the many shades of "Fern Green" - There were surely a few subtle tints of 'Envy' to be seen. Thanks again to the Barretts, Barry White, the Harrisons and Fullers for their hospitality and willingness to open their ferneries to us and for the work they put into making the day an outstanding success.


The meetings have been informative as well as enjoyable social evenings. Who will forget the fiercely debated topic of 'Fern Names and Pronunciations' with Terry Turney, Mary Kenealy's collection of Fern Memorabilia

or Chris Goudey's presentation on the 'Ferns of Stewart Island'. Terry Turney also spoke on Davallias, Barry White on Blechnums, Ian Broughton on his trip to Cairns and, following our Show, Bill Taylor chaired a discussion on 'Looking After Your New Fern'. We also had a fern identification forum, videoed fern demonstrations to show at the Fern Show and Milton Dyer of Multicrop spoke on their products. We have also added the monthly '5 Minute Fern' segment.



I would like to thank all who have contributed to the running of the Society during the past year. Barry White, as Secretary, and Don Fuller, as Treasurer, do a terrific job behind the scenes and we couldn't function without their work. Lyn Gresham's efforts, both as Editor and Occasional-Shoulder-to-Cry-On, are really appreciated - I think she does a sterling job with the newsletter (I really MUST get that article written for you Lyn!). Thanks also to George Start our Vice-President, John Oliver our Membership Secretary, Barry who doubles as Spore Bank Manager, David Radford our Librarian and Ivan Traverso who looks after Book Sales. Of course the work put in by Don and his group of willing workers on the Show Sub-Committee, and all those who assist at the Show, is vital to the Society and is also really appreciated. That we all appreciate Jean Boucher and Norma Hodges for ensuring the cups of tea and coffee are ready to drink at the end of the meetings, almost goes without saying - but it has been said! And who can resist Joy and Margaret's smiling faces as they greet us at the door and cheerfully relieve us of some loose change in exchange for the Special Effort tickets. Thanks also to John and Norma Hodges who work tirelessly to set up the hall for the meetings and pack up afterwards, and to Dick Kissane who looks after the sound system and recording the speaker so the report can be written up in the newsletter.

To all the Committee Members - Barry, Don, George, Lyn, Norma, Jean and also Chris Goudey our illustrious Past President, Gay Stagoll, Jack Barrett and Peter Theophilos (who had to retire during the year) - I would like to say thank you, and it has been a pleasure to work (and laugh) with you during the past year. You have certainly allayed the reservations I had about serving as President. It often seems to me that there are many hard working people in the Society and my role is just to be the Front-Man who gets all the glory!

Ian Broughton (President). 



R.T. Angwin  
6 Tenterden Street  
Spotswood 3015

5th September 1999

The President  
Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

# AUDITORS REPORT

I have examined the books of account and associated records of the Fern Society of Victoria Inc. for the year ended 30th June 1999 and have been provided with all the information and explanations required.

I consider the Statements of Receipts and Payments and Balance Sheet reflect a true and proper view of the financial operations of the Society for the year ended 30th June 1999

I wish to thank the officers of the Society for their co-operation and assistance

  
R.T. Angwin FCPA

## THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 1999

|                            | 1998<br>\$        | 1999<br>\$        |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>MEMBERS FUNDS</u>       |                   |                   |
| As/1997 Balance Sheet      | 19402.67          | 18991.34          |
| Surplus/Deficit            | -411.33           | -726.49           |
| <u>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</u> | <u>\$18991.34</u> | <u>\$18264.85</u> |
| <u>REPRESENTED BY</u>      |                   |                   |
| <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>      |                   |                   |
| Cash on hand - Book Sales  | 289.66            | 257.31            |
| Prepaid Deposit            | 100.00            | 100.00            |
| CASH AT BANK               |                   | 357.31            |
| General Account            | 2998.82           | 1796.44           |
| <u>STOCK</u>               |                   |                   |
| Books                      | 305.00            | 233.00            |
| Glasses                    | 107.52            | 70.08             |
| <u>INVESTMENTS</u>         |                   |                   |
| Term Deposit               | 15230.34          | 15880.02          |
| <u>FIXED ASSETS</u>        |                   |                   |
| <u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>        | <u>19031.34</u>   | <u>18336.85</u>   |
| <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u> |                   |                   |
| Prepaid Fees               | 40.00             | 72.00             |
| <u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>    | <u>\$18991.34</u> | <u>\$18264.85</u> |







**THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**  
**FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1999**

**FERN SHOW**

| 1998                 | 1999     |
|----------------------|----------|
| \$                   | \$       |
| <b><u>INCOME</u></b> |          |
| Door Receipts        | 600.00   |
| Fern Sales           | 3506.85  |
| Less - Cost of Sales | -2992.42 |
| Donation             | 50.00    |
| Refreshments         | 100.05   |
|                      | 1264.48  |
|                      | 1264.48  |

**EXPENDITURE**

|          |                              |         |
|----------|------------------------------|---------|
| 110.00   | Insurance                    | 165.00  |
| -        | Display Expenses             | 302.70  |
| 57.57    | Admin'n Expenses             | 113.59  |
| 100.00   | Hire of Venue                | 300.00  |
| 50.00    | Travel                       | -       |
| 66.40    | Awards/Presentations         | 121.05  |
| 383.97   |                              | 1502.34 |
| -129.00  | Expense Recovery from A.R.S. | -168.20 |
| 430.50   | <b>FERN SOCIETY SURPLUS</b>  | 1334.14 |
|          | <b>DEFICIT</b>               |         |
| 26.20    | Add - 50% Joint Profit       | -69.66  |
| \$456.70 | <b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>       | -69.66  |

**BOOK SALES**

| 1998                      | 1999                  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| \$                        | \$                    |
| <b><u>INCOME</u></b>      |                       |
| Sales                     | 41.60                 |
| Less - Cost of Sales      | -22.00                |
| Postage Recovery          | 19.60                 |
|                           | 19.60                 |
| <b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b> |                       |
| Postage                   | -                     |
|                           |                       |
| \$35.00                   | <b><u>SURPLUS</u></b> |
|                           | \$19.60               |

**SUMMARY**

| 1998            | 1999                              |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| \$              | \$                                |
| 2928.08         | Income - General Account 2828.58  |
| <u>-3831.11</u> | Less - Expenditure <u>3505.01</u> |
|                 | -676.43                           |
| -903.03         | Operating Deficit -676.43         |
|                 |                                   |
|                 | Add                               |
| 456.70          | Fern Show -69.66                  |
|                 | -746.09                           |
|                 | Less                              |
| <u>35.00</u>    | Book Sales 19.60                  |
|                 |                                   |
| <u>\$411.33</u> | <b>TOTAL DEFICIT</b> -726.49      |



## FOR SALE FERN GULLY, GARDEN & HOUSE

Take an exhilarating walk through a lovingly tended 5 acres in the foothills of the Strezlecki Ranges Gippsland, 1.8Kms from the Morwell National Park, ½ hours drive from Bulga and Tara Valley National Parks.

A sanctuary of ferns, stags, elks, Californian redwoods, ornamental trees, fruit trees, flower and rose gardens, scattered daffodils, 1000's of greenhood orchids, birds and visiting wildlife including koalas, set amongst huge gums, blackwoods and wattles. An automatic cprinkler system installed throughout the fern gully.

There is approx. 1 acre of natural bush and wide, unobstructed views of beautiful Middle Creek/Yinnar Valley.

Solid brick/brick veneer 3 BR home, double car port & separate garage, ideal retirement or getaway, possible future fern nursery? 1½ hrs from Melbourne, 10 minutes from schools - university and Churchill shopping complex.

**Price \$149,000**

**Phone 5122 1819. If no answer try after 7p.m.**



## USING PERLITE

Keith Hutchinson told us a bit about the use of perlite at our May meeting, and a discussion ensued. Someone asked what it was made of and variously gypsum and plaster were mentioned. My Collins dictionary says that it is "a vitreous rock, such as obsidian, whose mass seems to be made up of enamel-like spheroids". There you are.

Perlite can be used as an additive to your potting mix. It is particularly useful in Winter because it lightens the mix and aerates it. If anything it is slightly alkaline but most ferns will tolerate it well and Maidenhairs love it. It is quite reasonably priced - in Victoria a big bag is about \$15.

It is best to lightly moisten perlite before you use it as the dust that rises from the dry product can get in your throat. Although Keith doesn't think it will hurt you, the effect is very uncomfortable and is best avoided. It also mixes through the potting medium much more easily when damp.

When learning about how to store dahlia tubers over Winter some years ago, we were told that 100% perlite is just the thing to pack them in. Even though we moistened it slightly, it soon dried out and we lost most of our stock as they appeared to be simply desiccated. Maybe it was the pH, though. Either way, I remember being pretty impressed! The lesson; LEARN HOW to use garden products properly.

-Lyn.

## Ferns Are Fun

Ferns are plants  
and insects dance  
under the leafy fronds  
and raindrops drip  
and plop and plip  
and trickle into ponds.

These ferns have little ones  
so their name is  
hen and chickens  
fluffy little mini plants  
as the forest floor growth  
thickens

Planting ferns is fun  
because we can help them grow  
and when the land  
is again all leafy  
then it gives us  
it's best show.

Joe Bell 1999

This delightful poem was put onto the Internet's Fernet by 'Doug' of Auckland, N.Z. and passed on to me by Terry Turney. Thanks to both of you.





**Presented by Fran Harrison**

[illegible]

By that time I was completely confused, as I couldn't find anything very helpful in my fern reference books. Maybe someone can help me?                   ???

Ian suggested that it was not terribly happy in the better lit spot so thought it had better have some babies before it deceased and when it was moved into a shadier place the low light level suited it so well it relaxed! He also said that most *Osmundas* are completely deciduous, and that the non-deciduous ones probably suit our conditions better.

He has given up growing *O. regalis* because it needs continual water seepage and even when he had it going well, after a few weeks in a retail outlet it was all shrivelled up. *O. schraederi* is almost as bad.

Someone else (couldn't recognise the voice) said that they wouldn't appreciate the cooler conditions so well when moved into the open fernery.

Barry White grows his *O. regalis* about four feet high - in the fishpond because it is a swamp fern.

On reading up on the *Osmunda* genus, I find many references to 'wet' and 'boggy' conditions, and also the fact that most are deciduous - good news for us 'cold country' fernists. . Lyn

Maybe we need a speaker to talk on Osmundas sometime.

## Lyn Gresham

...with apologies for errors due to re-naming etc. Future corrections invited.

- O. regalis**<sup>1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10</sup> Royal Fern, Flowering Fern  
 O. regalis var. spectabilis<sup>2, 5, 6, 7</sup>  
 O. regalis 'Crispa'<sup>7, 8</sup>  
 O. regalis 'Cristata'<sup>7, 8, 10</sup> Crested Royal Fern  
 O. regalis 'Purpurascens'<sup>7</sup>  
**O. × ruggii**<sup>7</sup>  
**O. vachelii**<sup>4, 7</sup>  
 Spelling variation of O. vachelii?

References: <sup>1</sup> The Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening (G. Nicholson); <sup>2</sup> Ferns of Florida (Lakela & Long); <sup>3</sup> Ferns (Gillelan Dunk); <sup>4</sup> Hong Kong Ferns (L. So); <sup>5</sup> Ferns for Modern Living (Davenport & Pike); <sup>6</sup> Ferns to Know and Grow (Foster); <sup>7</sup> A Guide to Hardy Ferns (R. Rush); <sup>8</sup> Encyclopaedia of Ferns (D. Jones); <sup>9</sup> A Handbook of Ferns (C. Goudey); <sup>10</sup> Fern Growers Manual (Hoshizaki)



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# OUR NEW SOCIETY LOGO



Above is the winning F.S.V. logo from our competition held earlier this year. I was fortunate enough to have my entry chosen as our new, official logo. The old (original) one did the job admirably for 20 years but a number of members had remarked that a local, Victorian fern would be more appropriate - and the Kangaroo Fern is quite well known among Victorians.



# MONTHLY COMPETITION WINNERS.

## for September and October, 1999

### September

#### Fern From Fossil Records

1. Dorothy Forte's collection
2. Ian Broughton;  
*Psilotum nudum*
3. Ian Broughton;  
*Selaginella*.

Exhibitors' Draw; Ian, who declined to take one of his ferns home again. Redraw; Dorothy Forte.

Special Effort; Margaret Radley (2), Joy Horman, George Start, Reg Kenealy.

### October

#### Male Ferns - Dryopteris

1. Ian Broughton;  
*Dryopteris aff. Christata* (The King)
2. Dorothy Forte;  
*Dryopteris carthusiana*
3. Don Fuller;  
*Dryopteris erythrosora*

Exhibitors' Draw; Don Fuller

Special Effort; Margaret Radley, Dorothy Forte, Lyle Timms, Diane Mayne, Pat Nichols.

If you're not sure of your potting mix, plant radish seeds in it for a couple of weeks. Then check the roots. If they have brown tips there's something wrong with it. If they're white, the mix is fine - go ahead and use it. - Bob Fletcher

\*\*\*\*\*

### June's 5 Minute Fern Talk

## Nephrolepis exaltata 'Gretnae'

Presented by John Hodges.

\*\*\*\*\*

Some years ago the Society went on an overnight trip to Wangaratta/Porepunkah and at Norma's Fern Nursery (not my Norma) up there, Norma and I bought this fern. Well, not this actual one because every couple of years I divide it up and repot it. I now have four or five big pots of healthy, vigorous Gretnae at home.

The main reason I brought it in tonight is that when I do divide it, there are always a few bits which I can give to people. We all like to get something for nothing so it's a good way to get them interested in growing ferns.

I find this fern extremely easy to grow. If I'm out of my normal potting mix I just mix up a few leaves, recycled potting mix and Osmocote or a similar plant food. As for growing tips - I don't have any. It seems to just grow and grow!

Q. Where do you grow it? With shade cloth all around

it and shaded, clear fibreglass over the top. It doesn't like extreme cold eg., under a tree in a cold part of the garden wouldn't suit it at all.

Q. Is it a golden form or is it just poorly? It's a golden form, thank you very much! CAC

Chris Goudey in his "Handbook of Ferns for Australia and New Zealand" says it is a large, weeping fern with crested fronds and forked, bluntly lobed pinnae. He adds that it is a very graceful cultivar.

Barbara Joe Hoshizaki's "Fern Grower's Manual" calls it the Gretna Sword Fern and says it grows medium to large, is cold tender, grows in low to high light and moist to dry (not wet) conditions.

Sounds lovely, and as John said tolerates nearly any conditions. B

Don't use Leaf Shine on indoor ferns or palms. - Bob Fletcher.



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