

Fern Society of Victoria Inc. NEWSLETTER



21st ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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OFFICE BEARERS:

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS:	Single -	\$14.00	Pensioner/student \$11.00
	Family -	\$16.00	Pensioner Family \$13.00
	Organisation	\$16.00	
	Overseas -	\$21.00	- Payment by international bank cheque in \$A please. Overseas sent 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 the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre, 39 Weatherby Road, Doncaster (Melway 47; H1).

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

GENERAL MEETING TIMETABLE:

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

COACH ROAD FERNS

Wholesale.

Phone (03) 9756 6676. 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 GLEN

Wholesale and Retail.

Visitors welcome.



D. & I. Forte,
Garfield North, 3184.
Phone (03) 5629 2375

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development was much slower than by the previous method. Dormant buds along the rhizome spring into life when the terminal tip is removed. These cuttings would probably also have rooted successfully if laid in the medium as in (a).

Selaginellas are very easy to grow from cuttings, but the process is slow with some species. Pieces about 3cm long are nipped from the plant and the cut ends pushed into holes in the medium made at an angle. Selaginellas when growing do not make roots under the soil surface but produce a form of aerial roots as the branches extend and these grow down into the soil. Hence the cuttings do not develop roots on the buried parts, but if kept moist in their container will put down aerial roots.

Propagation can also be done by dividing off larger pieces which have roots formed already. Conversely, cuttings even smaller than 3cm will grow successfully and this can be useful for propagating some of the species which grow very slowly, without defacing the parent plant.

Chris showed a plant of *S. tamariscina* (a beautiful species from Japan with cultivars in many colours), which he had imported as a 10cm pot in 1986 and which was still only about 30cm across.

Lycopodiums can be propagated from tip cuttings 5-8cm long (laid horizontally on peat moss/perlite mix or sphagnum moss) if they are kept moist in warm and humid conditions, but the process is very slow (and not well suited to Victoria). A simpler method is to take advantage of the tendency of the hanging stems to turn upwards at the tip when they encounter an obstruction. If a pot of medium is positioned under a tip and left undisturbed, it will eventually form roots, but the process may take up to two years.

Bottom heat is a great aid in speeding up the development of plants from cuttings, as it is with many other propagating processes.

(4) Auricle Cuttings.

The stipe bases of Angiopteris and Marattia species are enclosed by thick, fleshy structures called auricles, which persist on the trunk for many years after the stipes have died. Each auricle contains two dormant buds that can be used for propagation. In nature the buds stay permanently dormant, only beginning to grow under special circumstances, such as if the plant is severely cut back by accidental damage. However, they will become active and begin to grow new plants if the auricle is removed and appropriately treated. The auricle is carefully cut from the plant using a long, narrow, strong blade. The cut is made vertically down behind the auricle and then curved out under it, taking great care to avoid damaging the buds (which are seen as two swellings) and the dormant roots below them. The auricle is dipped in a fungicide solution (Benlate or Previcur) and then about half buried in sphagnum moss, sufficiently to keep it moist while getting plenty of light. An ice-cream container covered with plastic film makes an excellent housing. The film can be held in place by the container lid with the centre cut out, leaving a rim about two centimetres wide.

Development of a plant to the potting stage takes 6-12 months. Small auricles grow more quickly but large ones, though very slow, produce larger plants. As fronds grow tall enough to touch the plastic film, cut a slit in it to allow them to grow through, while still maintaining maximum humidity for those still inside the

container.

When the new plant is taken from the container it has a long wiry root (unlike the fine roots of other ferns) which has to be untangled and freed of as much sphagnum as possible. The root and fronds and the adjoining section of auricle are then cut away from the main body of the auricle (which can be put back in the container if necessary to continue the development of the other bud).

Rod Hill propagated Angiopteris from spore some years ago, but this method is not normally successful with Angiopteris and Marattia as it is not possible to sterilise the medium. Growth of these species requires symbiosis with a soil-borne fungus.

(5) Stipe Cuttings.

Certain species of Asplenium, those with an erect tufted rhizome (caudex), can be propagated from stipe cuttings, but this is not an easy method. The lowest frond is cut from the plant together with a section of the caudex, thus giving the equivalent of a heel cutting from a normal plant. The cut is made by running a knife down from the top between caudex and frond. This procedure is difficult to control and somewhat dangerous, as it is possible to damage the plant severely if the cut is too deep.

The cutting is then reduced to about 10 centimetres long and most of the leaf part is trimmed off. It is then dipped in a fungicide solution and laid on sterilised medium with the lower (caudex) end just touching the surface and the upper end supported clear of the medium on a small prop about a centimetre high.

(6) Division.

Ferns which form large clumps with multiple growing points, e.g. Adiantums with creeping rhizomes, can be propagated by division. The clump is simply pulled or cut apart at appropriate points of weakness and the resulting sections planted.

Clumping species of Platycerium, such as *P. bifurcatum* can be propagated by dividing off the "pups" with a sharp knife, cutting sufficiently deep to remove a portion of the rhizome and roots. The pieces are then backed with a pad of sphagnum moss and mounted on a board or piece of tree-fern.

Sphagnum moss is preferred to compost as the backing medium (compost is added after the plant is established). Because sphagnum moss holds moisture, is very sterile and contains no nutrients it is ideal for stimulating root growth. It is often possible to save a sick plant by washing off the soil, treating the roots with fungicide and planting it in sphagnum.

(7) Stolons.

Some ferns produce wiry lateral growths called stolons which have dormant buds along them. The buds remain dormant until they come into contact with a suitable moist site, when they produce young plants. The stolons are cut away from the main rhizome and the plants potted up.

The best known examples of stoloniferous ferns are the Nephrolepis species, but a number of Blechnum and Doodia

(Continued on page 46)

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THE FIRST TWELVE MONTHS OF THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The Fern Society of Victoria was established at a public meeting at Burnley Horticultural College on 3rd May 1979.

Prior to this there were a number of important preliminary meetings. The idea for the formation of the society came from Chris Goudey after suggestions from Jimmy Dyce of the British Society, Steve Clemesha from N.S.W. and Neil Williams of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria. The first of the preliminary meetings was at the home of Ian Buckmaster at McLeod West on the 2nd of March. Present were Ian

and Lorna Buckmaster, Ted and Irene Bolster and Chris Goudey, with an apology from Lorraine Goudey. The group decided that there was enough interest to form a fern society. Ian Buckmaster was named interim president and Irene Bolster interim secretary. The group discussed names for the society, publicity, and venues for a public meeting.

Another meeting was held at Ian Buckmaster's house on 18th March. Jan Maher and Ivan Maher were invited attendees. The foundation members then being Ian and Lorna Buckmaster, Chris and Lorraine Goudey, Ted and Irene Bolster, and Jan and Ivan Maher. Chris Goudey was nominated interim vice-president. It was decided to hold the inaugural meeting at Burnley on the 3rd of May. The assistance of Gillian Dunk with an article in "The Sun" on the proposed formation was noted.

The third steering committee meeting was held at Ivan and Jan Maher's home in Kealba on 21st of March. New persons at this meeting included Albert Jenkins, Peter Franks, Robin McPherson,

Neil Laird, Moyra Gascard, Moreyn Newman, Gary Lawes and Mr. A. and Mrs. Betty Buckingham

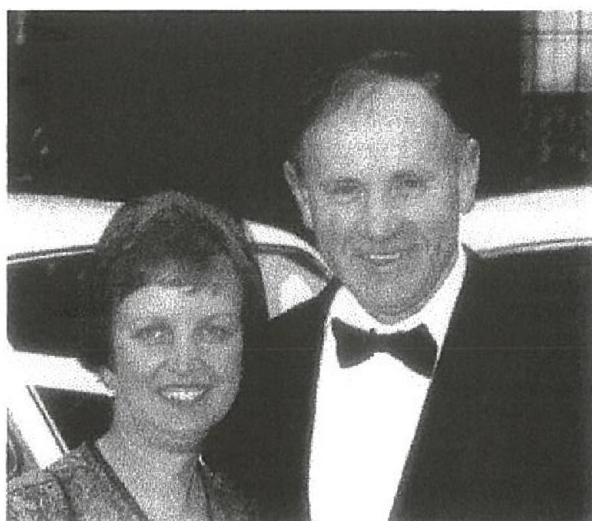
with apologies from Rod Hill, Bill Firth and Jacqui Campbell. Jan Maher was appointed public relations manager, and Ivan Maher treasurer. Chris Goudey proposed that a logo, preferably an Adiantum, be developed. The meeting agreed on the name "Fern Society of Victoria".

At the fourth meeting of the steering committee on the 2nd of April it was decided that Neil

Williams of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria be asked to be the chairman at the inaugural public meeting, and that speakers at the meeting be Chris Goudey, Ian Buckmaster and Jan Maher. A donation of \$500 from Gary Lawes was acknowledged. It was stated that the money was a donation to go to the Society when it became constituted but that it could be used for debts incurred by the provisional committee.

The inaugural public meeting on the 3rd of May was formally opened by Ian Buckmaster who invited Neil Williams to take the chair. Approximately 280 people were in attendance. He welcomed all and thanked members of the steering committee for all their work, and commented that the Society was being formed under the auspices of the R.H.S.V. Ivan Maher moved the formal adoption of the name of the Society and Peter Franks moved the adoption of the draft constitution. The membership fees were set at \$8 single, \$10 family, students and pensioners \$5.

The following office bearers were elected unopposed.



Chris and Lorraine Goudey, 1999

The Fern Society of Victoria

is pleased to welcome

all past and foundation members

to our

21st Anniversary

to share the celebrations:

Smorgasbord luncheon

Talks by founding members

Reminiscences of our beginnings & early years

Catching up with old friends

Lots of entertainment

A few surprises

and the keynote speaker,

Mr. David Jones

Australia's leading horticulturist & botanist

and noted author of many definitive books on

Australian plants.

The present members thank you for contributing to the formation of the Society we value and enjoy greatly, whatever skills & strengths you drew upon.

We trust you have a memorable day!!!

The President, Committee and present Members

Sunday May 21st, 2000

MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2000

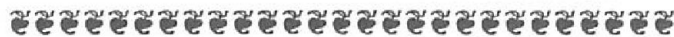
General Meeting on Thursday May 18th

Vireya Rhododendrons

Bill Taylor and Ian Broughton

Vireya enthusiasts and experts extraordinaire

Five Minute Fern Talk by Barry Hubbard
Competition; any fern in or on a tree fern container.



**Hear David Jones speak
at The Society's
21st Anniversary Dinner
Sunday 21st May.**

DON'T MISS IT! Secure your place today!

*You are asked to bring along your Fern Society memorabilia and a nice fern
for our display, if possible.*

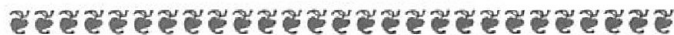


General Meeting on Thursday June 15th

My Favourite June Fern

and/or My Least Favourite Problem Fern

Five Minute Fern Talk by Keith Hutchinson
Competition; Favourite fern,
*Bring along your fern growing competition fern!!!



General Meeting on Thursday July 20th

Ferns of Mt. Kinabalu

Richard Hartland

Five Minute Fern Talk by Joy Horman
Competition; Epiphytic fern.



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Pearls From The President.



Meryl and I came across a good joke some time ago that seems to get more appropriate with the passing years: When you get to our age you start to think a lot more about the Here-After, don't you? You go into a room and stop, and think, 'Now what am I here after?'

I sometimes think that the busier life becomes, the more often my brain takes industrial action and starts a go-slow campaign. There is a lot happening over the next little while. As I write this, the setup for the Fern Show is only two days away and I would like to thank everyone in anticipation of their help over the next few days. Then in just four weeks we are celebrating our 21st Anniversary on the 21st May. Unfortunately, at last report the response has not been as strong as we would have hoped. If you have not yet replied, we hope

that you have received this newsletter in time to contact Keith Hutchinson on 9457 2997, but **you must act immediately** so we can contact the Clayton RSL with the final numbers. Remember that we have David Jones, a noted guru on Australian ferns and many other plants - he is currently doing a lot of work with Orchids - coming as guest speaker and it promises to be a really enjoyable afternoon of catching up with old friends.

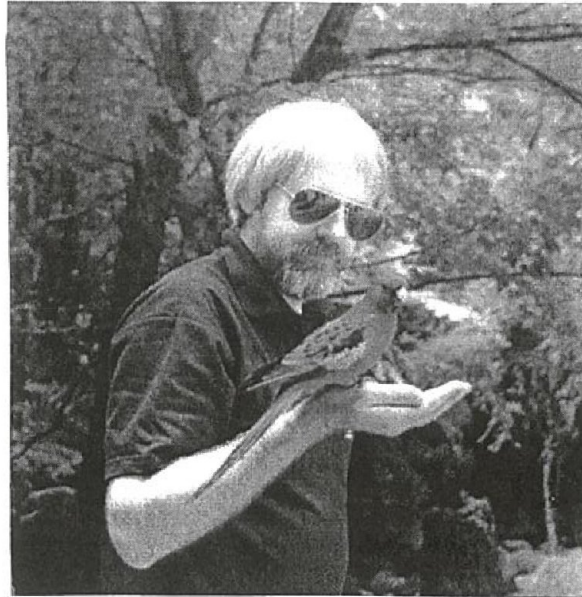
On the meeting front, we have enjoyed a taste of what we can expect from the anniversary when Keith took us on a trip down memory lane with some photos from the earlier days of the Society. He also spoke about fertilizers and we appreciate his stepping in at short notice to fill a gap in our programming. Last month Wayne Turville of Wayne Turville Orchids gave us a really exciting talk on native epiphytic orchids. He is a dynamic speaker and had many stunning photos to inspire us. It was almost enough to make even the most ardent ferny go a little weak at the knees. If you ever get the opportunity to hear Wayne speak, it should not be missed.

Don't forget that subscriptions will be due on the

first of July. You will notice that all membership categories will be rising in cost by \$1 to cover increases in the cost of producing the Newsletter. If you would like to get more for your money, I can thoroughly recommend

that you take a more active part in the Society by attending meetings and getting really involved in other activities such as the Show, our Anniversary, any excursions etc.

At our next meeting, Bill Taylor and I will be sharing our knowledge and experiences of growing Vireya Rhododendrons. Vireyas mix very well with ferns and many of you will have them or will have tried them in the past. They come in a stunning array of colours and forms with many being highly fragrant. The competition category is any fern growing in or on



a treefern container and the 5 minute fern talk will be by Barry Hubbard from Parkes in NSW, which should be really interesting.

In June, we will be having a discussion evening on My Favourite Fern or Least Favourite Fern Problem (we have been threatened with: no fern or problem = no supper!!) The evening is to include an update on the ferns in the growing competition - so bring them along. The competition is to be My Favourite (June) Fern and the 5 minute fern talk will be by Keith Hutchinson.

I'll finish by giving you early notice of our July meeting when the speaker will be Richard Hartland, an early member of the Society and passionate Ferny. Richard will be speaking on the ferns of Mt Kinabalu in Borneo. It will be a night to remember, as the photos will be awe-inspiring.

Don't forget the Anniversary, we would really enjoy seeing you there.

Ian Broughton. 🐾🐾🐾

Vegetative Propagation.

Reprinted from the FSV Newsletter, Vol 14, No. 2 & 3.

Chris Goudey

"Vegetative Propagation" is reproduction from parts of a growing plant, as opposed to reproduction from spore. This method yields plants that are exactly the same as the parent, whereas spore-grown plants sometimes show variations from the original. The parts of ferns that can be used for vegetative propagation and the methods employed vary with the species.

(1) Bulbils.

Some ferns produce on their fronds miniature plants or bulbils that can be used to grow new plants. Ferns which can be grown from bulbils include:

- ◆ **Adiantum:** Species such as *A. caudatum*, *A. incisum* and *A. philippense* have long fronds with tip buds that produce roots when they contact soil.
- ◆ **Asplenium:** Many species, such as *A. bulbiferum* and *A. daucifolium* produce bulbils over the surface of the frond. There are many more varieties in cultivation now, mainly hybrids of *A. bulbiferum* crossed with species such as *A. flaccidum*, *A. hookerianum*, *A. oblongifolium*, *A. obtusatum* and *A. surrogatum*.
- ◆ **Athyrium:** *A. accedens* produces bulbils along the rachis (mid-vein) at the pinnae joints.
- ◆ **Dryopteris:** *D. erythrosora* 'Prolifica' very small bulbils.
- ◆ **Polystichum:** Some of the English varieties of *P. setiferum* have bulbils all the way along the mid-vein of the frond, but Australian species such as *P. proliferum* and *P. australiense* have only one per frond near the tip.
- ◆ **Tectaria:** *T. gemmifera* produces dormant bulbils (no leaves or roots) along the mid-veins of the fronds which drop off when mature. These are about the easiest of all bulbils to grow although they are a little cold sensitive. All the *T. gemmifera* Chris has grown in Australia have had bulbils only on the top of the frond whereas the ones he brought back from Africa have them on the lower side also.
- ◆ **Woodwardia:** *W. radicans* and *W. unigemmata* produce single large bulbils near the ends of the fronds. *W. orientalis* produces myriad tiny bulbils over the upper surface of the fronds.

The method used for reproduction from bulbils varies according to where the plant produces them:

- (a) For bulbils on the tips of fronds, a simple method is to arrange

a series of small pots around the mother plant and pin the bulbils to the surface of the medium with plastic-covered wire.

(b) Bulbils growing on the surface of fronds are pulled off and planted in a tray of medium composed of two parts peat moss and one part vermiculite or perlite or sand. Sphagnum moss is also suitable. Small holes are made in the medium with a pencil or similar object and the bulbils planted just deep enough to hold them firm. The crown must not be covered. The medium is pushed around the bulbils by hand and they are then set aside in a humid environment.

The most important thing when propagating *Asplenium* by method (b) is to get a good fat bulbil wherever possible. The size of the baby fronds is unimportant; they may be very stunted under adverse growing conditions but this appears not to prevent the development of the bulbil into a new plant. Some species of *Asplenium* have very small bulbils but they will still take root.

(2) Offshoots.

Some ferns produce offsets or suckers at the base of the main plant which can be used to produce new plants; *Asplenium shuttleworthianum* was shown as an example. These can be handled in two ways:

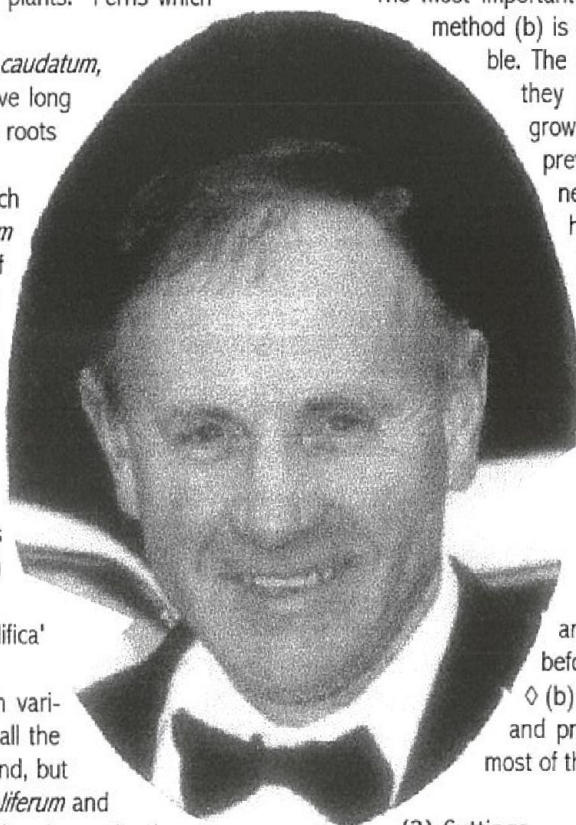
- ◆ (a) Wait until the offshoot grows large and produces its own rhizome and roots before separating it from the main plant or
- ◆ (b) Cut it off early without waiting for roots and propagate it as a cutting after removing most of the fronds.

(3) Cuttings.

Ferns with exposed creeping rhizomes, such as *Davallia* and *Polypodium*, can be readily propagated from cuttings, as can *Selaginella*. Chris used *Davallia plumosa* to illustrate growing from cuttings by two different methods:

(a) Terminal tip pieces about eight centimetres long are laid in trays of peat-moss/vermiculite medium (or sphagnum moss) at a slight angle to the horizontal, so that $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the rhizome from the cut end, the part where the root will form, is slightly buried to keep it moist (a stone on top has the same effect as part burying). A bent cutting may need to be held down with a peg of plastic-covered wire or a small stone.

(b) Pieces of rhizome without terminal tips were stood vertically in 8 cm pots of medium, where they struck successfully but root



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Speaker Report from March 2000 meeting

FERTILISERS - A User's Guide.

Keith Hutchinson.

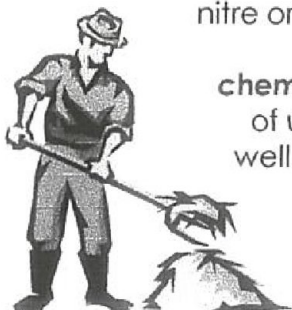
THE BIRTH OF CHEMICAL FERTILISERS.

Back in 1669 there was a paper in England which talked about the growing of corn and wheat in America. The pioneers would clear the land and grow magnificent crops (8ft or 240cm corn and 3 ft or 90cm wheat in their first year. The next year the corn grew to about 6ft or 180cm, the next year it was smaller again until after five years it would not grow at all. They couldn't work out why this was happening but kept moving on to new land every five or so years. Many thousands of acres were ruined under this method of farming.

I'm not sure about the exact scenario but this is roughly what happened; In the process of clearing some more land a group of farmers wanted to blast some tree stumps. They mixed up gunpowder - which consists of sulphur, charcoal and saltpetre. One chap spilt quite a lot of saltpetre around, and later it was noticed that everywhere it had been spilt, the crops and even the native grass grew like mad. They realised that there must have been something in the saltpetre which caused the terrific growth and henceforth used saltpetre consistently, with continued good results.

Saltpetre is the common name for nitre or potassium nitrate.

This was the birth of the **chemical fertiliser**. The benefits of using **animal manures** was well known at that time but of course they didn't have access to the quantity needed for the vast acreage they were



farming. Neither did they know that they could have replaced the nitrogen used up by their nitrogen-hungry crops by putting in a 'green manure' crop of alfalfa, beans or legumes.

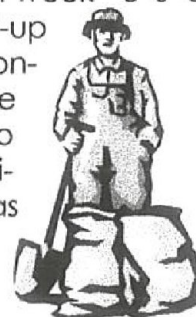
POTASH, MY FAVOURITE.

In 1954 When I began my career as a nurseryman there was only one liquid fertiliser on the market, Aquasol. It was extremely popular. Another very popular one later on was Formula 20 (now known as Plant Starter, I think). I sold an enormous amount of these two.

If punnets of seedlings were in the shop for more than about a fortnight they would start to yellow so I would water them twice in a week with Aquasol then the next week use just water (to flush out any built-up salts). They would respond wonderfully - you could just about see the good, green colour return to the seedlings. The main ingredient in Aquasol at that time was potash.

When Thrive came out I noticed that it was mostly urea and thought that the results were not as good as with Aquasol.

Once, in the Society's early days, I trialed some of the available fertilisers on six ferns in my glasshouse. Everything was identical; the potting mix, ferns, everything. In the three months of the trials I fed each of them with a different fertiliser and the two which were outstanding were (1) fish emulsion and (2) Aquasol with Maxicrop added.



The ten major elements that plants need are;

carbon, hydrogen and oxygen which the plant obtains from the air
nitrogen, phosphorus and potash (see below)

sulphur, calcium, iron and magnesium are needed in lesser amounts
many minor elements are needed in minute amounts.

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The big three

Nitrogen available in these forms:

nitrate of potash 12% (Keith's favourite)
 sulphate of ammonia 20% (widely used)
 nitrate of soda 15%
 urea
 urea formaldehyde (widely used in slow-release fertilisers today. Releases nutrients at the exact rate that plants need them)

Phosphorus available in 2 forms, soluble and insoluble
 superphosphate 22%

Potash available in 3 forms:

nitrate of potash 46%
 sulphate of potash 48.5%
 muriate of potash 50%

Comparison Between Products Available Today

⇒ **Aquasol** 23-4-18 fairly cheap

N. 23
 s. ammonia 1.8%
 n. potash 2.6%
 urea 18.6%

P. 4
 sol super 4%

K. 18
 p. nitrate 7.8%
 p. chloride 10.2%

⇒ **Thrive** 27-5.5-9

N. 27
 nitrate potash 3%
 s. ammonia 2.6%
 urea 21.4%

P. 5.5
 s.super 5.5%

K 9
 nitrate 9%

⇒ **Phostrogen** 14-4.4-22.5

N. 14
 p. nitrate 8%
 s. ammonia 3.4%
 urea 2.6%

P. 1.2
 sol super 1.2%

K. 22.5
 nitrate of potash 22.5%

Nutricote 13.3-5.8-9.7 reasonable

N. 13.3
 nitrate 7.4%
 ammonia 5.9%

P. 5.8
 s. super 5.8%

K. 9.7
 nitrate 9.7%

Scotts Osmocote dear

N. 16.3
 urea 8.4
 ammonia 6.45
 nitrate 1.45

P. 4
 s. super

K. 10.4
 all sulphate

Miracle Grow very dear

N. 15
 s. ammonia 6.8
 urea 8.2

P. 13
 all super

K. 12.4
 all chloride

Maxicrop plus Nutrient reasonable. Said to contain 70 of the minerals plants need.

N. 4.6
 urea

P. 1.2
 phosphorus

K. 3.1
 hydrogen phosphate

Grow Plus cheap

N. 5.2
 ammonia 4.7
 nitrate 0.5

P. 6
 all super

K. 4.5
 chloride 3.9
 nitrate 0.6

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	N.	P.	K.
Fish Emulsion	3.3	0.6	0.33
Charlie Carp dear	9	2	6
Blood and Bone	5	5	0
Nitrosol	0.78	0.18	0.55
Sheep Manure	0.5	0.5	0.1
Cow Manure	2	Nil	Nil

Random Notes


**percentages shown refer to the amount which is available to the plant.

**Chloride breaks down to table salt.

**Sheep manure is the only animal manure which contains potash.

**Pivot comes as *Pivot 100*, *Pivot 300*, *Pivot 400* and *Pivot 800*. *Pivot 100*, the cheapest, contains chloride. *Pivot 300* has sulphate of potash, a little chloride and blood-and-bone. Though dearer, it is preferred.

**The '*Plus*' which appears in the name of some fertilisers indicates - or should - the presence of trace elements, making the product much more useful to the gardener.

** The symbol  appearing beside some products indicates Keith's preferred liquid products. He always uses them in conjunction with the plain Maxicrop.

** Manufacturers can change their formulas at will which means we may be changing our feeding regime without knowing it. The look of the packs often doesn't change, except that the product information chart is updated. So it is a good idea to keep checking.

□□□□



MORAN'S HIGHWAY NURSERY

Wholesale and Retail.

Phone 075442 1613. Bruce Hwy, Woombye
(1 km north of Big Pineapple; turn right into
Kiel Mountain Road). P.O. Box 47, Woombye,
Qld, 4559.

Multicrop

Maxicrop

**Australia's original liquid SEAWEED
plant food concentrate**

- Stimulates vigorous root development
- Builds resistance to insect and fungal attack
- Enhances fruit and flower formation
- Non burning, easy to use on all plants
- Minimise transplanting shock
- Harden plants during periods of stress
- Establishes plants quickly after planting or transplanting

Multicrop & Maxicrop products
are available at all leading
garden supply outlets.



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FSV AND THE *GST.

(*the soon-to-be-with-us-in-Oz Goods and Services Tax, to those who live in outer space, or elsewhere GST-free)

The Committee has researched the impact of the GST on our Society and whether we should register for an ABN to receive tax credits or not.

The situation is that with an ABN we would be saving less than \$100 annually at our present level of operation but members would be obliged to pay GST on membership fees and any purchases from the society. We would be shifting the cost from the Society to members.

If we don't register for an ABN the Society will have to pay GST on anything we buy, including the printing of the newsletter and possibly postage.

The decision was to not register. By so doing, as well as saving you, the members money we will save the treasurer a lot of work (so Don can tear up his letter of resignation now) and more importantly, we are confident that we have kept faith with you. You the members are not being disadvantaged by the decision.

At the present time, all extra expenses incurred in the running of the society will be absorbed by the society and we anticipate that that will be an ongoing situation.

The Members of Your Committee . \$\$\$\$

(Continued from page 39)

species also produce stolons as do some tree-ferns, such as *Cyathea baileyana*, *C. rebecca* and *Dicksonia squarrosa*. Spreading by stolons probably explains why *D. squarrosa* can be found growing right at high tide mark in New Zealand. *Nephrolepis cordifolia* produces tubers on its roots, but these are only food and moisture storages and are of no use for propagation.

(8) Layering.

In this method of propagation portion of the plant, generally the rhizome, is pinned down on to a suitable medium. Examples of plants to which this technique can be applied are *Lycopodium* species (discussed above), *Blechnum filiforme*, *Oleandra neriiformis* and those which form bulbils on the ends of the fronds.

When the new plants propagated by the various methods above have formed roots they can be potted into tubes, using a mix with low nutrient value. At this stage root development is the primary aim - top growth is secondary. A commercial tube mix (such as Debco) is satisfactory or one can be made from sand and peat moss. Well-aged tree-fern fibre can also be added, *Dicksonia* is preferable as *Cyathea* tends to be too acid.

ototot

FEES GO UP AS PRINTING COSTS INCREASE.

We regret that all financial members' annual fees will go up by \$1 for the 2000 - 2001 year, irrespective of category. This should just about cover the recently increased cost of producing the newsletter. We regret this subscription increase and hope that we can operate successfully under this model.

What's the World Coming To?

Everything is further away than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner and they've added a hill, I noticed. I've given up running for the bus, it leaves faster than it used to do. It seems to me they are making steps steeper than in the old days . . . and have you noticed the smaller print they are using in the newspaper?

There is no sense in asking people to read aloud; everyone speaks in such a low voice that I can barely hear them, and the material in clothes is getting so skimpy, especially around the hips and waste.

Even people are changing; they are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand people my own age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day and she has changed so much that she didn't recognise me.

I got to thinking about the poor thing whilst I was combing my hair this morning, and whilst I was doing that I glanced at my reflection - and do you know what? They don't make mirrors like they used to.

This was given to me by one of our - er - More Mature Members some time ago. Thanks, MMM. I'm sure a lot of us can have a laugh at ourselves as we read it!!

202020

21st Anniversary Issue

President Chris Goudey
Vice Presidents Albert Jenkins
 and Ian Buckmaster
Secretary Irene Bolster
Treasurer Peter Franks
Committee Members;
 Glad Andrews, Geoff Eckberg,
 Lorraine Goudey, Keith Hutchin-
 son, Neil Laird, Moreyn Newman
 and Norma Stafford.

Thursday was the favoured night for meetings and membership application forms were made available. \$630 in membership fees was received and \$255 in door takings. Neil Williams then thanked all for their co-operation and wished the F.S.V. best wishes for the future.

At the committee meeting on the 14th of May a subcommittee was formed to investigate the publication of a magazine. A letter was received from Ray Best and in view of his help to the Society it was decided to waive Ray's membership fee for the first year.

At the second general meeting on 26th of May the President announced the setting up of fern identi-



Kath Brown and Albert Jenkins.

cation and plant pathology tables at future meetings. Chris Goudey gave a talk on the different species of ferns and showed examples.

At the committee meeting on 14th of June a newsletter subcommittee of Jan Maher, Robin



Beth Ward, Lorraine Goudey and John Oliver.

McPherson and Geoff Eckberg with Jan Maher as editor was appointed. It was also decided that visiting speakers be offered \$10 towards their expenses and that members pay 20% commission on the sale of plants and other goods

Jan Maher was the speaker at the June general meeting. Jan demonstrated hanging baskets and terrariums.

At the committee meeting on 12th of July it was decided to send a letter to Gary Lawes thanking him for his gift and offering him an honorary or life membership in recognition of his gift. An advance to Chris Goudey was approved to cover books ordered by members also an extra advance of \$300 or more if necessary to purchase extra copies which would be held for sale at a later date.

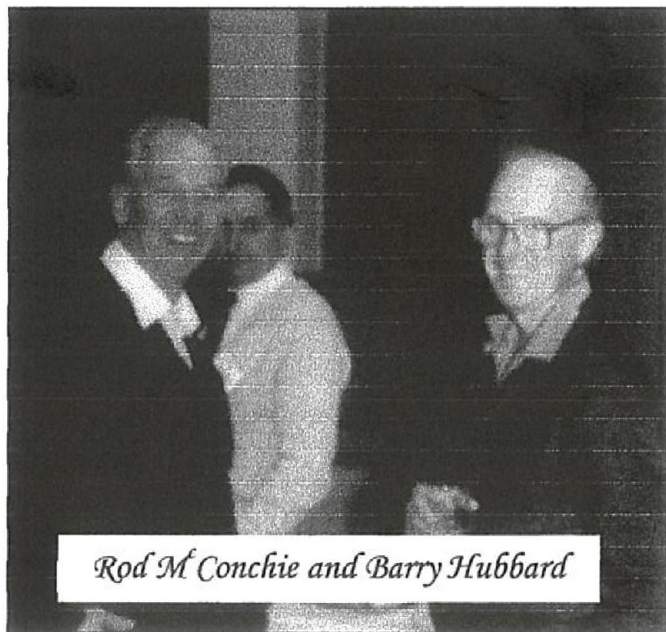
At the July general meeting the President announced that the Society would be exhibiting at the Sun Homes Show and possibly at the Royal Melbourne Show. He also gave details of a newly formed fern society in South Australia. Chris Goudey gave a talk on various books on ferns that were available and Peter Franks made comments on slides from Chris Goudey's collection.

In July an informal Newsletter was distributed, a one and a bit page publication giving information on progress to date with the Society, office bearers, membership fees, and upcoming speakers.

21st Anniversary Issue

At the August meeting Angus McLeod from the Department of Agriculture spoke on the import and export of ferns, and Harold Olney told of equipment he had made for his glasshouse and of his collection of over 100 tropical maidenhairs.

At the committee meeting on 13th of September Albert Jenkins was appointed acting treasurer due to



Rod McConchie and Barry Hubbard

the imminent departure of Peter Franks to England, and Keith Hutchinson was appointed to the Newsletter subcommittee as Editor.

John Pitchard spoke on the ferns of Lord Howe Island at the September general meeting, and Chris Goudey gave a demonstration of propagation of ferns from spore. Nominations were also called for an extra committee member and Ted Bolster was elected.

In September Volume 1 Number 1 of the Newsletter was distributed. In it was noted that the membership was now over 300.

In October a sub-committee was formed to investigate holding a fern show at the Herbarium. It was also decided that the monthly fern competition be divided into two sections, open and novice. Novice was defined as a person who has been growing ferns for less than two years. Also a prize was to be offered for the best slide suitable for use on the Newsletter cover.

Rod Hill was asked in November to operate the spore bank.

In March 98 it was decided to send a letter to the R.H.S.V. asking them what was happening with the \$500 donated by Gary Lawes. Subsequently the Society asked R.H.S.V. for details of the money it spent on behalf of the F.S.V. and decided that a bill be sent to the R.H.S.V. for \$218 for the cost of hiring premises. In July the committee was not happy with the response from the R.H.S.V. and it was decided not to pay any more fees to the R.H.S.V. until clarification and settlement, and if no satisfactory arrangement was reached that the honorary membership of Gary Lawes be rescinded.

The first annual general meeting was held on the 14th of August. New members elected to the committee were R Casmere, M. McKeon, R. Caithness, Kath Brown, Bill Taylor and Jean Trudgeon. Aggregate prizes for the year for the fern competition were awarded to Mavis Bryant in the open section and Ann Bryant in the novice.

Barry White. *FB FB*

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21st Anniversary Issue

March's Five Minute Fern Talk

George Start

I never cease to be amazed at the new angles members think of for presenting this popular segment at our meetings. George came up with a beauty. He began by passing around photos of Bats-wing Ferns (*Histiopteris incisa*) growing in briquette dust in a crack in concrete at his workplace. A truly hardy fern, that!

He then went on to talk about, and display, three articles from his collection of things made from tree fern 'trunks' turned on lathes, beginning with a Maku article bought in New Zealand.

George had a small vase which had been made very early last century by a man who collected tree fern trunks from up Ferntree Gully way, brought them home in the train, carrying a bag of tree fern pieces and an axe, where he turned them and finished them with boot polish. It was given to George by this man's granddaughter. He remarked that you'd get shot if you tried collecting them like that today!

George also showed a bottle turned from Punga.

It is believed that the early Maoris copied the pattern on some of the tree fern species for their tattoo work, and also used some of the hard, flint-like portions for shaping spearheads and hunting native pigeons.

The intricate and beautiful pattern we see on these articles is only apparent after the outer layer of roots etc. has been removed.

Some may doubt that tree fern material would be hard enough to last long. George told us he has punctured a truck tyre by accidentally running over dead, hard tree ferns in the bush.

The centre pith from the base of the N.Z. Punga (Black Tree Fern) frond stem was used as food and is said to resemble the taste of coconut, though George has lived for short times on this material from Victorian tree ferns and describes it as being like green walnuts. ☞

COMPETITION WINNERS 🏆 2000

March - Ferns of Nth Q'ld.

1. Ian Broughton,
Asplenium polyodon
2. Ian Broughton
Cyathea baileyana
3. Keith Hutchinson,
Drynaria rigidula cv. Whitei

April - Maidenheads.

1. Diana Maine, *A. formosum*
2. Dorothy Forte *A. Fortei*
3. Ian Broughton, *A. sylvaticum*

Exhibitors' Draw; March; Ian Broughton. April; Dorothy Forte

Special Effort; March; Bob Lee, Mavis Potter (2), Pat Nicholls, Dorothy Forte, April; Lyn Gresham, Don Fuller, Joy Horman, Wayne Turville, Mavis Potter .

Fern Show 2000.

BEST FERN IN SHOW

Chris Goudey's Asplenium undulatum.

SECTION.	EXHIBITOR.	NAME OF FERN.
1. Adiantum	1) Chris Goudey 2) Barry White	<i>A. raddianum</i> cv. Lawsonianum <i>Adiantum</i> 'Bridal Veil'
2. Asplenium	1) Chris Goudey 2) Chris Goudey	<i>Asplenium undulatum</i> <i>Asplenium</i> 'Austral Gem'
3. Davallia	1) Dorothy Forte 2) Don Fuller	<i>Davallia fejeensis</i> 'Major' <i>Davallia plumosa</i>
4. Nephrolepis	1) Dorothy Forte 2) Don Fuller	<i>Nephrolepis</i> 'Black Petticoats' <i>N. aurea</i> 'Chantilly Gold'
5. Pteris	1) Don Fuller 2) Don Fuller	<i>Pteris hendersonii</i> <i>Pteris cretica</i> "Wimsettii"
6. Fern in Hanging Container	1) Barry White 2) Don Fuller	<i>Phlebodium aureum</i> <i>Drynaria rigidula</i> 'Whitei'
7. Fern Arrangement	1) Norma Hodges 2) John Hodges	

☞

The judge was very pleased with the quality of the ferns entered, seeing a big improvement over recent years. She was also appreciative of the higher than usual number of entries.



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