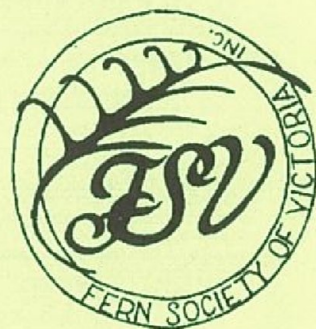


Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

NEWSLETTER



ABN 85 086 216 704

Vol. 25, Number 6.
November/December 2003

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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

E-mail: http://gardenbed.com/clubs/clubs_vicferns.cfm

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.*

OFFICE BEARERS:

President:	Rex Gresham	Phone/Fax (03) 5796 2466
	"Kilpara", Selectors Road, Mangalore, Vic, 3663. e-mail <lynrex@optusnet.com.au>.	
Imm. Past President	Ian Broughton	
Vice-President	George Start	" 5962 5059
Secretary	Barry White	" 9740 2724
Treasurer	Don Fuller	" 9306 5570
Membership Secretary	Rex Gresham	" 5796 2466
Spore Bank Manager	Barry White	" 9337 9793
Librarian	Mirini Lang	" 9598 8398
Book Sales	Ivan Traverso	" 9836 4658
Editor	Brenda Girdlestone	9390 7073

Email: macstone@hotmail.net.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Jean Boucher 9707 1592, Jack Barrett 9375 3670,
Gay Stagoll 9844 1558, Norma Hodges 9878 9584. Brenda Girdlestone 9390 7073
and Mirini Lang 9886 6109.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Keith Hutchinson 9457 2997,
Norma Hodges 9878 9584, Mirini Lang 9886 6109, Brian Nicholls 9836 6507,
and Bernadette Thomson 9399 1587.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

- * Single..... \$15.00 * Pensioner/student\$12.00 * Family\$17.00
- * Pensioner Family... \$14.00 * Organisation.....\$17.00
- * Overseas \$22.00 (Payment by international bank cheque in \$A please. Sent by Airmail.)

Subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year.

MEETING VENUES: The Kevin Heinze Garden Centre at 39 Wetherby Road, Doncaster (Melway 47; H1).
Other meetings at members' gardens or as advertised on the following page.



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

TIMETABLE for EVENING GENERAL MEETINGS:

- 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 another good yarn.
- 10.00 Close.

2003 Calendar of Monthly Events

Thursday 21st November at Kevin Heinze Garden Centre

Speaker: Chris Goudey

Chris is the expert (I've heard it said, world authority) on **MAIDENHAIR FERNS** and we are privileged to have him come and talk to us about this wonderful fern. If you only attend one meeting a year then this should be the one..

Competition: Maidenhair Ferns

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 2003.

AT KEVIN HEINZE GARDEN CENTREFROM

11.30 AM

This year again this event will be catered for, all you need to bring with you is plates, cutlery, and drinks other than tea or coffee. Also a plate with afternoon tea.

There will be a auction so bring with you anything you would be willing to donate and see it go to a good home, half the money raised goes to the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre so come along and catch up with your fellow members. This was a great event last year and a relaxing way to finish our year.



>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

2004 CALENDAR

No meeting January 2004. Our first meeting will be **Thursday 19th february 2004**

Barry White will be leading a talk on Lady Ferns.

Our competition will be lady ferns *Athyrium*, *Diplazium*, *Deparia* and *Lunathyrium*.

Forward notice: There will be no meeting in April, 2004, as it would be the night before setting up for the show and the committee felt it would be too big a strain on our members.

□ **Thank you to Lyn Gresham!**

- We have a change of editor, after 7years of compiling the newsletter, for us to enjoy, Lyn has
- earned her retirement. Lyn I take this opportunity to thank you from the committee and the
- members for your tiresome devotion to producing such a well informed newsletter.

☐ Personally I thank you for the help and assistance that you have given me, with more help in
☐ the near future I'm sure, as I find my feet so that I can continue the great work you started.

PRESIDENTIAL PERORATION

Here we are once again facing the end of yet another year. As the sticker on my fridge says, if I knew I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself! Since the last meeting I have managed to have my gall bladder removed, and by the time it went I was very pleased to see the end of it. The marvels of keyhole surgery meant that I was out of hospital within 24 hours and on the way to recovery.

Because of this event I was forced to miss going to see Terry Turney's garden. I was told that it was a great day, enjoyed by all. The weather was delightful, not the usual rainy Fern Society day at all. Thank you once again Terry for opening your garden and house for us.

Looking into the future, don't miss November's meeting, as we look forward to hearing from Chris Goudey on Maidenheads. As stated on Gardening Australia last week—the world authority on Maidenheads. This will be our last normal meeting for the year, as December will be our end-of-year party.

Our AGM went by with all of our incumbent committee being voted back into office. I thank all of them for their dedication to the society. Also at this meeting I have the pleasure to announce that Brenda Girdlestone has taken on the role of Editor of our magazine! This was a great relief to Lyn who has been doing the job for seven years. We welcome Brenda into the job, and I am sure that you will all help her as much as possible by sup-

plying articles for her to include.

It would be remiss of me not to say something of Lyn's efforts over the past years. I can say without fear of argument that Lyn lifted our magazine to new heights during her tenure with her artistic flair and sense of humor. Our magazine has developed over many years into one that is well thought of throughout the world. This is due not only to the editors, but also to our speakers and article contributors. I am sure that Brenda will continue to develop it into her own style.

I hope to see you all at the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre—39 Wetherby Road, Doncaster on Sunday 7th December at 11.30 a.m. It will be catered, but please bring your own crockery and cutlery and any special drinks. Don't forget to bring donated items for the auction. Proceeds from the auction are split between our Society and the Kevin Heinze Centre.

Rex



FROM THE RETIRING EDITOR

We have a new editor! Many thanks to Brenda Girdlestone for willingly agreeing to take over the keyboard from me. Every editor puts their own stamp on the Newsletter and I'm looking forward to a 'bigger and better' (well, as much bigger as you can get within a 16-page limit!) production, with Brenda's own 'look'. She will do a great job, I know.

A mighty big THANK YOU to the many people who helped me in the job, from the first day (thanks, Bob Lee and Terry Turney for the advice and encouragement) to the last. You helped with articles, guidance re fern names (which I'm sure I didn't always get right), ideas, criticism (always kindly delivered), written notes of the talks you gave, gracious responses when I asked for help, lots of advice and even hand-drawn fern pictures. Every bit of support was heartening and greatly appreciated. DON'T STOP NOW!!

The Fern Society is a great mob of people, and I'm going to continue my involvement ☐because I just love ferns and because I'd miss you all if I didn't. Brenda, I hope you enjoy editing the newsletter as much as I did. I'm available if you ever need any help so just ask. I wish you well.

Lyn Gresham

[illegible]

Growing Ferns or How to Prevent Ferns from Going to Plant Heaven*

* Adapted from an article in the 1967 LAIFS Show Journal where no author was cited, and a similar article by Sylvia Leatherman in the 1969 Show Journal.

Additional material was provided by Brenda Kanno of the Botanic Garden at California State University Northridge.

An overall treatment of cultural requirements for all species and varieties of ferns is impossible, but the following guidelines will help the gardener select those ferns that are more likely to be successful. Knowledge about a specific fern's requirements can be found in the LAIFS Fern Lessons and other fern references. The following notes are only guidelines to help the gardener decide what kinds of growing conditions are compatible with ferns.

SOIL: Most ferns require a porous, acid soil. There are a few ferns, however, such as some *Adiantum*, that prefer alkaline conditions. If ferns are grown in the ground it is best to incorporate acidifying amendments such as peat moss into the soil. Areas where azaleas, begonias or fuchsias are successful will also generally be good for ferns. The only caution is that the crown of the fern should never be covered with soil. In general, well drained soil works best for most ferns. For ferns grown in containers, the mix can include coarse sand; perlite or pumice should also be added to maintain drainage. However, there are some ferns from boggy areas that must be given saturated conditions if they are to thrive in cultivation.

WATERING: As a general rule, ferns are found in moist habitats. Only a few, referred to as "xeric," are found in areas of very little or no rain during some part of the year. Ferns from such drought areas usually go dormant in summer and are not typically found in gardens. Ferns usually require moist soil; none will survive in the garden without regular watering. Be sure to water thoroughly and get the whole root mass wet. Misting or sprinkling the plant will help keep the humidity up, but this does not water the roots.

TEMPERATURE: Extremes of heat or cold are usually best avoided. LAIFS Fern Lessons provide temperature tolerances for specific fern species.

HUMIDITY: Ferns will not tolerate hot, drying winds; some require protection from cold wind as well. Careful selection of planting site is needed to provide protection from these winds as well as from intense overhead sun. Ferns will often tolerate the high summer temperatures of the Los Angeles area if their growing area is kept sufficiently humid. Grouping plants together to create a microclimate is one way to conserve humidity. However, air circulation must also be considered. Stag-

nant air, combined with overly warm temperatures, can lead to edema, followed by loss of leaf tissue.

FEEDING: Ferns that receive regular feeding are a lush green, and all ferns look better with periodic feeding. Those grown in containers should be flushed the day before feeding to remove any accumulated salts. This flushing also insures that the plant will be moist when the fertilizer is applied; a dry plant should never be fertilized. If you feed your plants weekly or biweekly with liquid fertilizer, it makes sense to use a lower strength fertilizer

(one-half strength, for example) than if you feed monthly. Ferns should be fed year-round, but need less frequent feeding during periods of slowed growth, typically during the cooler season. Slow release fertilizers also work well and need fewer applications. Just be sure to avoid placing solid or granular fertilizers on the crown or foliage, to avoid burning.

LIGHT: Although ferns are usually spoken of as shade plants, no fern will survive in very dark, dense shade. Most are best grown where they get early morning sun, bright shade or filtered sunlight. Very few ferns will tolerate full southern California sun. *Polypodium longifolia* is one species that does; it is also drought tolerant and evergreen. This makes it an excellent choice for more general garden use, though it can volunteer too vigorously for some gardens.

PESTS: Ferns are prone to attack by several garden pests: aphids, mealy bugs, scale, sow bugs, slugs, snails and caterpillars all find them edible. A sharp water spray, frequently recommended, is not a good idea since it can damage sensitive fern fronds and tends to disseminate the pests, not kill them. Care must be used with commercial insecticides since the ferns themselves are susceptible to damage from these chemicals. Read the instructions carefully to see if it is safe for ferns before using any preparation. Never apply chemicals to ferns that are in the sun at the time of application; severe burning can occur.

DIVIDING: When crowding occurs, or the fern outgrows its space, it is time to transplant or divide the plant. This is best done in early spring or whenever there is strong new growth visible. This is a good time to renew the soil as well, especially with container grown plants. Cutting off older fronds, or cutting back long fronds can also be done at this time to reduce water loss while the root system recovers.

Speaker Report
THE DAHLIA TALK

Rex Gresham

I am passionate about dahlias and it is my wife's fault. She bought some tubers at her garden club meeting seven years ago and gave them to me with the instruction, "Here, grow these". And that was that. I delighted in the first flowers they bore and that delight continues. Every year I say I'm going to grow less "next year" and each next year I somehow grow more.

There are many types of dahlias - large, small, round, spiky, looking like powder puffs, single flowered.....in Australia we grow seven recognized 'show' types as well as a few which fit in the cracks between. Each show type has many hundred (probably thousand) varieties in all colours except blue and black. As well, there are an infinite number of beautiful 'garden' varieties. Flower size ranges from over 30 cm to less than 5 cm across.

Plant height varies between 3 m and 25 cm. Foliage comes in greens or dark maroon (called 'black').

DIVIDING A CLUMP OF TUBERS

In the home garden it is not strictly necessary to lift and divide your plants each year. They will die down completely but as long as your drainage is good the root-stock will survive winter and when the soil warms up in spring, will re-grow. Each tuber you plant will produce a clump of 3 - 20 new tubers which will grow to a clump of plants. The quality of your blooms will probably reduce each year but as gardeners, not dahlia specialists, you may well not mind that at all.

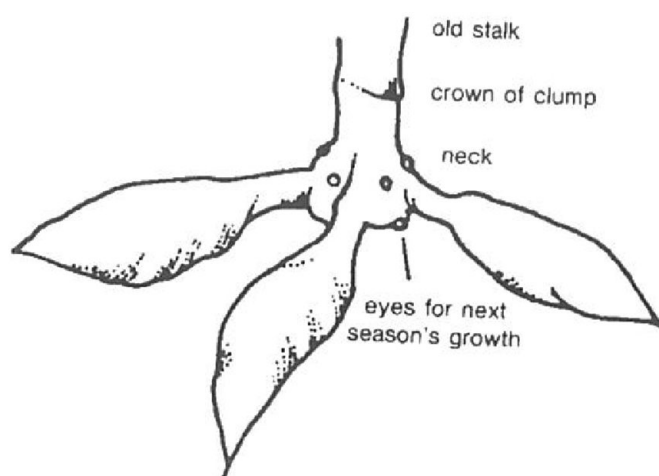
If you think you're in for a wet winter, or you plan to divide your plants, either to maintain vigor in the plant or maybe to share tubers with friends, carefully dig up the whole clump in about June when it has died down, leave the soil on it and just put it down under a lemon tree or somewhere it won't get frosted. In late September or October wash it so you can see what you're doing, get a sharp knife or secateurs and then decide where you're going to cut the clump apart. You need at least one bud or new shoot on each division, which is usually just one tuber. These buds are found just near where you're going to cut the clump apart, so be careful. The buds are fragile and contain the new growth. No bud or shoot = no new plant.

The old tuber is discarded. It is usually obviously older looking, more marked than the rest though sometimes this is not the case. A close inspection will, however, reveal that there is one just below the others, from which the others emerge. That's the old one. You don't want it.

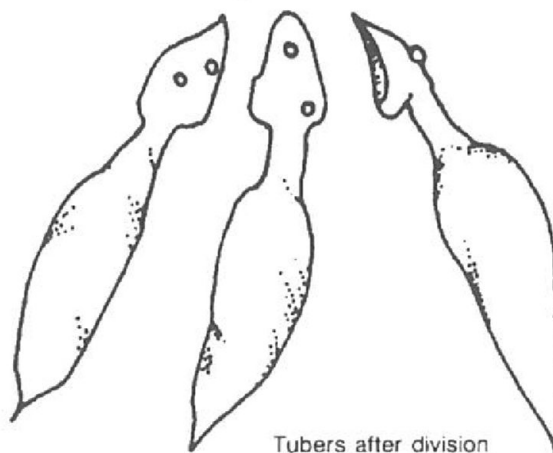
You can grow dahlias in pots. There are some small-

flowering, low growing varieties readily available from nurseries called patio dahlias and that's a good name for them - they're excellent for containers. But in parts of Europe where summers are short, gardeners grow them all in pots. These can be taken into the greenhouse for winter where they will shoot much earlier than the garden-grown ones, giving them time to flower.

For increased plant production (and because it's fun to do), you can take cuttings. Each tuber usually has many growth buds (eyes) and the removal of early shoots triggers other eyes into activity. A young shoot can be cut off the tuber and planted into a propagating medium (I



Clump of tubers



Tubers after division

use peat moss & sand 1:1), watered well and kept moist and shaded for a few weeks until roots start to develop. (Yes, he digs them up every now and then to check!! - Lyn) They are then planted out into a bigger pot of potting mix to establish strongly, then planted in the garden where it will grow on and produce its own flowers and tuber in the first season.

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PLANTING YOUR TUBER

1. Dahlias need stakes. The stake goes into the ground before the tuber. You can start with a 5ft stake which will do for the whole season, or a shorter one which looks better but will need replacing as the plant grows.
2. Plant your tuber about 5cm from the stake, 10cm deep and angled at about 45° (for water runoff), growing tip highest.
3. Plant into moist ground and DO NOT WATER IT again until the shoot is at least 15cm above the ground. Until it has established its own root system it gets all it needs from the tuber you planted so all watering does at this stage is risk rotting the tuber.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR DAHLIA PLANT

1. Dahlias will really take off when tied to a stake, which stops the small feeder roots being broken off by wind movement, so we tie them while they are ridiculously small; as soon as watering commences.
2. Dahlias are gross feeders. Plant into fertilized soil and DON'T fertilize again for 12 weeks. Use a good quality plant food designed for flowering plants. I use "Organic Life", a slow-release one similar to "Dynamic Lifter" but with seaweed and fish products added.
3. Dahlias like water. They require the same amount as any annual; zinnias, marigolds, phlox etc. Good drainage is essential.
4. For show flowers you may disbud your plants for flower size, and shade large types to prevent sun bleaching. I use either umbrellas tied to the stakes (which look ridiculous but work) or shade cloth (50% white or cream are preferable).
5. Don't let your plants go to seed because it will then stop producing flowers. Deadhead the flowers as they finish and you should have a show of colour from January until early May. It's well worth the trouble.
6. Cut your plants down to about 15cm after they die back, after which you can lift them for storage through winter. The tubers receive food from the plant as it is dying so resist the urge to 'tidy it up' for as long as possible.

STORING TUBERS OVER WINTER

I don't have enough evergreen trees to store my tubers under, so I put them into dampish sawdust and hang them in grocery bags, one clump per bag, in a shed. I write the variety name on the bag. The other advantage in white plastic bags is that I can easily keep an eye on the contents. If a tuber rots, the sawdust goes black and that shows through the bag. If I notice early enough, I can remove the rotting tuber, dust the site with derris dust and rescue the rest of the clump.

DISEASES

Every insect pest in the world seems to love dahlias but if you're only growing a few, that doesn't matter.

Earwigs will gather in rolled-up newspaper — in fact they prefer it to flowers — so place the rolls of paper around near the base of plants and every morning empty the earwigs into a bucket of hot water.

For **smarter critters** like hyacinth beetles, harlequin bugs and soldier beetles you will need to spray with a systemic insecticide. This is heavy duty stuff — protect yourself; wear a mask, a hat and clothes which cover you well. I shower, change and wash my clothes as soon as I finish, too. Most systemic sprays ruin the flowers that they contact, but one doesn't; Confidor. It is effective but is the safest one to use. I use a cycle of Rogor and Malathion. Ian told of a synthetic Pyrethrum spray which is available commercially and much safer to use.

Downy mildew can affect Dahlias if the air cannot circulate around the bushes well or in very humid weather. I have discovered that a spray of 1:9 solution of milk and water kills downy mildew — and actually feeds the dahlias as well.

Snails & slugs don't bother my dahlias — they're busy chewing up Lyn's ferns!

GROWING FROM SEED

You can collect seed and sow your own dahlia plants. Seed does not grow the same as the parent plant — each seed produces a brand new variety. Dahlias are among the most cross bred plants in our gardens (as opposed to selectively bred), partly because they have been cultivated for so long. Their gene pool is huge. Any colour and any shape can pop up at any time, some worth growing on and most not. But it's fun to try ... and it's free!

To produce healthy seeds, (I do it late in the season so I don't lose too many flowers) let seed pods develop (they hang down rather like buds but with pointy ends) and to reduce the moisture level to discourage rotting you can gently squeeze each pod every day. Excess moisture will 'milk' out. Do this until they're dry, pick them and store in paper bags or envelopes until you plant them the following August.

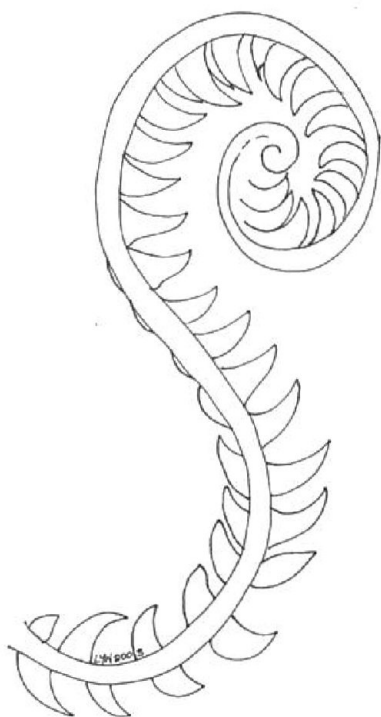
When I'm growing from seed, I plant them a few inches apart, either in the garden or in 6" pots and wait to see whether they're worth keeping or not. I let them produce two flowers before pulling them out as often the first flower is a bit weird, the second is a true indication of what to expect.

FERN COMPETITION and RAFFLE RESULTS

September Competition

- 1st Dick Kissane Marratta Howena
2nd Brenda Girdlestone
Marratta Howena
3rd Barry White Asplenium surrotium

Raffle Winners: Robin Wilson
Margaret Radley
Chris Michalopoulos (2)
George Bates
Rex Grisham



Want to grow ferns for competition?

The emphasis is not on winning but on ability to grow good looking ferns. It is also on participation. If you do happen to win an award, this really is a bonus! To get ready, select five or ten ferns and start preparing them for next year. Some will take a few years before they reach their full potential.

Preparation is all to do with potting-on, fertilising, and turning the pots on a regular basis.

If you want to know more, talk to one of our Committee members, who will be only too glad to help you on your way.



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FERNS TO PRES

Author: Amber Cook

(Reprinted with thanks from the June, 1999 issue of Flower & Garden Magazine)

In the 19th century, the English cultivated ferns in little greenhouses called Edwardian cases while also pressing the specimens they gathered from all over the world. Often they pressed the feathery, delicate specimens between absorbent sheets and, when dry, pasted them in unique arrangements.

Fern vendors actually went door to door offering their ferns in lists and in some instances, even propagated many unusual and rare species.

Find your own exotic ferns with showy variations of laces, frills and plume-like foliage. Look for the Tatting Fern with edges that look like old-fashioned knotted lacework or the Lady Fern's delicate, finely cut fronds with the drooping tips.

Nature is transmuted into art, and botany transformed by attention and affection when you press and frame the delicate beauty of ferns from your own purchased pots, foliage patterns or from the wild.

Create intriguing botanical studies, showing leaf and root, and see the delicacy of framed ferns dance across the parlor.

MATERIALS

Firm, smooth cardboard, 9 by 12 inches

Paper towels

Medium to large size book or a large botanical press

#2 brush

Bristol board #440-2 with rough surface in 1 1-by-15-inch pad, 130

pound (matting)

Light "tacky" glue

4 picture frames, 11 by 15 inches (with glass)

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Choose ferns carefully from the wild, an open garden plot, a garden centre or your own purchased pots of foliage.

Look for ferns with the most perfectly formed leaves -- no dark spots or discoloration. Look for a variety of specimens and a variety of sizes of each kind (new shoot, medium size and tall).

Kinds of ferns to look for.. Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*): It sports fancy "ladylike" fronds, crested tips, frills and plumes. Some have golden green tassels or crested tips. Tatting Fern (*Athyrium filix femina* 'Frizelliae'): Up close, edging resembles old-fashioned

knotted lace that looks like a tiny green necklace. Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum*): It has fan-shaped whorls of leaflets that are held horizontally. Fiddlehead Fern or Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*): Its leaflets are coiled and shorter near the base. Larger fronds are shamrock green with a velvety texture.

Step 2. Cut your fern leaves and place them loosely in a basket or bag.

Step 3. Sort the ferns into like kinds and place in a medium to large book or large botanical press between paper towels for four to five days or until they are dry.

Step 4. Lay out four Bristol board sheets. Next, lay the dry pressed ferns onto the Bristol board in a self-expressive design (i.e. small, medium and large ferns of one kind in one frame). Make sure tips and ends are within frame area.

Step 5. Brush a dab of glue at the top, middle and bottom of fern pieces and press gently into place onto Bristol board.

Step 6. With all pieces ideally placed, use a brush to lightly glue other tips and stem pieces of ferns and press them firmly onto Bristol board. Allow glue to dry.

Step 7. Finish with handwritten identification of each specimen, with black ink pen at the bottom edge of the paper -- it's part of the personal charm (especially for a gift).

Step 8. Remove the cardboard and glass from the picture frame. Clean the glass and frame (leaving the "holding nails" in the up position to bend down later).

Step 9. Carefully slip the Bristol board (holding the ferns) and the cardboard backing into the frame. Then bend the holding nails back into place.

Amber Cook is a Garden Art writer and photographer. Her book, "NatureCrafts for All The Seasons" was published by Sterling Inc.

Our Thanks to Turney and Sharon Turney

Terry and Sharon opened their home and beautiful gardens to our members on Saturday the 18th October, 2003. I don't have time or the space to tell you all what an experience this was to all that attended on the day so watch out for the next edition of the newsletter where I will attempt to do justice to what awaited us, and the sights we were exposed to.

October fern raffle: As we were at Terry and Sharon Terney's for this day we did run a raffle which were won by:- Jack Barrett,
Noel Cleak,
Mavis Potter x 2

Congratulations to all the winners

FERN COMPANIONS

Plants other than ferns that will go well in your fern garden"
by John Banasiewicz

Most ferns in this list (compiled at a WAFS meeting) are of sub-tropical to tropical

origin, but many have adapted and grow well in our temperate climate. 'Rose selected are small to

medium in size, as these can be grown with ferns in fern houses, in atriums, on patios, or in a well sheltered bright garden setting. Also they will not overwhelm the ferns. Many of the plants have colourful flowers or foliage.

Here is a list of the plants, with a brief description of each type and its requirements:

Anthurium

These lily-like plants bear flamboyant flowers in a large variety of colour shades, from white through pink, red and mauve. They are commonly known as Flamingo Flowers and originate in the American

tropics. They are rather cold-sensitive, but they will thrive in a warm, sheltered atrium or patio.

Aspidistra

The generic name for the well-known Cast-iron Plant, an extremely hardy member of the lily family grown for its foliage. The leaves are leathery, with prominent parallel venation, and can be either plain dark green or variegated. Small flowers are borne close to ground level and are insignificant.

Begonia

This is a large and very diverse genus, with over nine hundred species and countless cultivars.

Tuberous-rooted begonias are more for the specialist, and are grown mainly in glass house situations. However, there are numerous fibrous rooted species which are suitable for fern and shade houses and for sheltered positions in the garden.

Continued page.....91

Continued from previous page

Apart from their attractive flowers (usually in white, pink or red shades) a number of species have foliage which is very attractive in both shape and colour patterns.

Bromeliads

With a single African exception, the many genera and thousands of species belonging to the bromeliad family come from sub-tropical and tropical America. They cover a huge range of shapes and

colours, and many are epiphytic, requiring no soil for growth as long as their centres contain water for their nourishment. They can be cultivated in pots, in hanging baskets, in the ground or attached to live or dead tree trunks and branches. To achieve the latter, simply mount bare-rooted plants to the wood with some sphagnum moss as a base and secure with thin wire or fishing line. Apart from some startling flower displays, many bromeliads have attractively coloured foliage, often patterned with bands or spots. In some species the central leaves assume bright colours just before flowering. Generally, those types grown for their foliage require strong light, but not full sun.

Bromeliad genera which adapt well to cultivation and are easy to grow include *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Neoregelia* and *Quesnelia*.

Clivia

Available in a wide range of red, orange and yellow shades, clivias are adaptable to almost any situation from full sun to deep shade. They are extremely hardy and their bell-like flowers, borne in clusters at the tops of sturdy stems, provide a beau-

tiful splash of colour which contrasts with their dark green, strap-like foliage.

Cordyline

Another very diverse genus with species ranging in habit from large and robust to small and delicate. They are grown mostly for their foliage, which varies widely in colour and size.

Cycads

These ancient plants, which can be easily confused with palms, are very fern-friendly, as both ferns and cycads are survivors of prehistoric times. A major difference between cycads and palms is that the former are gymnosperms which are devoid of flowers and produce exposed seeds in a special cone. Palms are angiosperms, which produce flowers followed by seeds contained in an ovary.

The following cycad species are, especially suitable for growing among ferns, being of relatively small size and attractive appearance; *Ceratozamia hildae*, *C. norstogii*, *Dioon spinulosa* (blue-grey foliage), *Zamia fischeri*, *Z. floridana*, *Z. furfuracea*, *Z. Lindenii*, *Z. muricata*, *Z. neurophyllidia*, *Z. roeziii*, *Z. splendens* and *Z. stanleyii*.

Dichorisandra thyriflora

Although it is commonly called Blue Gringer, this is not a true ginger family member. It is a fantastic specimen plant for shady areas, bearing clusters of startling blue flowers at the ends of long, gingerlike stems.

Dieffenbachia

Commonly called Dumb Cane. Plants are grown for their variegated foliage and need a warm, protected area for full potential. Their common name is derived from the fact that they are poisonous and therefore should be handled judiciously.

Dracaena

A genus of foliage plants noted for their many colours and patterns, which contrast well with normally-coloured species in a group planting.

Hoya

There is a vast range of these slightly succulent, semi-climbing plants which include some species native to Australia. Their waxy flowers are produced in umbels and in some species are lightly scented. Hoyas are best grown in hanging baskets.

Maranta and Calathea species

These are commonly known as Prayer Plants, probably due to their ability to raise and/or fold their leaves in differing light and temperature conditions. They go very well with ferns, most having leaves with contrasting light and dark green variegated upper surfaces, with burgundy colouring on the under-surfaces.

Orchids

There is a vast variety of species and cultivars, available in every colour imaginable. Most orchids are native to tropical regions of the world, but many will grow in temperate climates if given the right conditions and treatment. Those especially suitable to grow with ferns include species of *Dendrobium* and *Cattleya*, which, being epiphytic, can be

Continued on page 94

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 2003 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 2003. These reports have been compiled according to Australian Accounting Standards. I wish to thank the officers of the Society for their co-operation and assistance

R.T.Angwin FCPA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2003.

2002 \$		2003 \$
	<u>MEMBERS FUNDS</u>	
18684.58	As/2002 Balance Sheet	18263.19
-445.89	Deficit- General A/c	-803.85
384.50	Surplus - Fern Show	764.60
<u>18623.19</u>	<u>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</u>	<u>\$18583.94</u>
	<u>REPRESENTED BY</u>	
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
	<u>CASH AT BANK</u>	
1807.06	General Account	3873.19
	<u>STOCK</u>	
135.00	Books	
147.49	Mugs	109.25
	Misc' Goods	225.00
	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>	
16603.64	Term Deposits	14500.00
18693.19	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	18707.44
	<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	
70.00	Prepaid Fees	123.50
<u>\$18623.19</u>	<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$18583.94</u>

GENERAL ACCOUNT INCOME

2002		2003
	<u>SUBS</u>	
1078.00	Renewals	1112.50
155.00	New Members	217.00
	<u>SALES COMMISSIONS</u>	<u>1329.50</u>
	Spore Bank/Fern Sales	32.60
	Commissions	247.65
250.80	Misc. Sales	379.60
189.00	Less - Cost of Sales	335.96
36.00	Mugs	30.00
27.31	Less - Cost of Sales	21.85
-	Books	45.00
-	Less - Cost of Sales	45.00
	<u>SPECIAL EFFORTS</u>	
177.00	General (Net)	139.45
	<u>OTHER INCOME</u>	
144.00	Advertising	126.00
264.75	Auction Receipts	324.50
-	Donation	55.00
2174.24	<u>OPERATING INCOME</u>	2306.49
	<u>ADD NON OPER'G INCOME</u>	
	Bank Interest	
0.27	General Account	0.15
4R6-64	Term Deposits	697.67
<u>\$2674.15</u>	<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>3004.31</u>

GENERAL ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE

2002			2003
	NEWSLETTERS		
956.50	Printing	1072.09	
322.46	Postage	387.52	1459.61
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
150.00	Honorariums	150.00	
48.49	Regist'ns/Subs'ns	48.00	
120.05	Admin./Sect'l	175.31	
89.46	Entertainment	264.95	
400.00	Hall hire	400.00	
200.00	Guest Speaker Exp.	16.39	
400.00	Audit fee	400.00	
42.57	Bank Charges	27.00	
27.31	Presentation	80.00	
52.00	P.O.Box Rental	52.00	
133.00	Donation	212.00	
178.20	Insurance	228.80	
-	Library Books	151.21	
	Posters/Labels	52.89	
	Write Off Book Balance	90.00	<u>2348.55</u>
<u>\$3120.04</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>\$3808.16</u>
	<u>SUMMARY</u>		

2002		2003	
2674.15	Income - General Account	3004.31	
3120.04	Less - Expenditure	3808.16	
-445.89	Operating Deficit		-803.85
	Less		
384.50	Fern Show Surplus		764.60
<u>-\$61.39</u>	<u>TOTAL DEFICIT</u>		<u>-\$39.25</u>

FERN SHOW

(Held jointly with Aust'n Rhododendron Society)

2002			2003
	<u>JOINT RECEIPTS/EXPENDITURE</u>		
1707.00	Receipts		1595.40
1667.66	Expenditure		
39.34	JOINT SURPLUS		415.24
19.67	FERN SOCIETY SHARE 50%		\$207.62
	INCOME		
4384.50	Fern Sales	6269.25	
-3712.46	Less - Cost of Sales	678.58	
50.00	Donation/Sale Fixtures	75.00	753.58
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
20.00	Display Expenses	56.60	
197.21	Admin'n Expenses	-	
140.00	Travel	140.00	196.60
\$364.83			\$556.98
364.83	FERN SOCIETY SURPLUS		556.98
19.67	PLUS - JOINT SHARE SURPLUS		207.62
<u>\$384.50</u>	<u>FERN SHOW SURPLUS</u>		<u>\$764.60</u>

(Continued from page 91)

attached to logs or tree trunks, or grown in hanging baskets.

Palms

Of this vast and diverse family of plants so synonymous with subtropical and tropical regions, the species listed here are con-fined to a few of the smaller and more delicate types suitable as adjuncts to a fern garden. *Syagrus weddelliana* (Wedding Palm), *Licuala ratwayi* (although a large palm in the tropics it is very slow growing here), *Chamaedorea elegans*, *metallica*, *ernestiaugusti*, *brachypoda*, *stolonifera*, *microspadix*, *Rhapis zuikonishiki* and *toyonishiki* (both variegated), and *R. koban*. Most species of *Rhapis* grow to between 1 m and 2m in height.

Spathiphyllum

Available in plain or variegated foliage

Syngonium

Plain and variegated varieties are available of this very hardy genus; they will creep on the ground or up tree trunks.

WAFS Newsletter June 2002

(*1 grow Pleionies in the ground in my shade house and they are right at home.)

THE ROAD TRAUMA SUPPORT TEAM

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR 8th ANNUAL OPEN ROSE GARDEN WEEKEND

TO BE HELD AT NIEMESTEEGS ROSE NURSERY

4 TARRAWARRA ROAD, COLDSTREAM

(OFF MAROONDAH HIGHWAY 12 KMS OUT OF LILYDALE MELWAYS REF 276/B6

15TH & 16TH NOVEMBER 2003

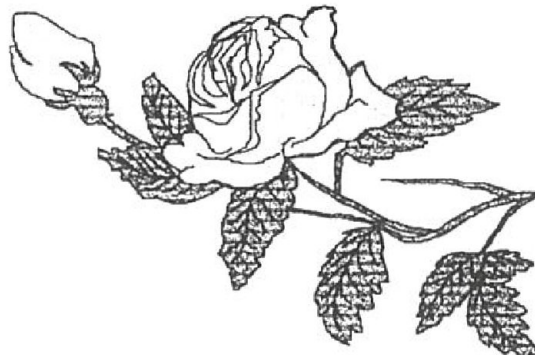
9 AM TO 4 PM EACH DAY

VIEW THE HUNDREDS OF ROSES ON EXHIBITION

Alister Clark & David Austin Roses., Perennials, Refreshments, Sausage Sizzle., Devonshire Teas., Raffle, Cake Decorators Association of Victoria stall., & much more

Admission \$5 adults \$2 children \$3.50 Pensioners

All proceeds to the Road Trauma Support Team Vic Inc.
For further details phone 9819 9922



COLLECTORS CORNER:

This is the space that I have set aside for each newsletter to be used by our membership. If you are after a fern to add to your collection don't know where to find one or maybe you want information about a fern, anything at all. Ask our members I'm sure one of them will be able to help.

Let me know and I will put it in, you can include your phone number they can contact you direct or they can send the reply to me and it can be printed in the following newsletter to everyone.

To start us off Lyn Grisham is asking for plants of *polypodium scandens* (fragrant fern) Lyn can be contacted on (03) 5796 2466.

Lyn let us know how you go.

the bush house nursery wholesale and retail

Visitors welcome

Lorraine Deppeler
Phone (03) 5565 1665
18 Hermitage Drive,
Allansford 3277

Ferns -trays to advanced.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The President and the Committee Members of the Fern Society take this opportunity to thank all our members for their support throughout the Year. We look forward to a Bigger and Brighter Year for 2004.

We wish all our members and their families a Happy and Prosperous Christmas and New Year and We look forward to Serving the Fern Society of Victoria for the coming Year.



NEWSLETTER

If undeliverable return to:
FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
P O Box 45, Heidelberg West, 3081
Victoria Australia.
Print Post approved PP334633/0002

ABN 85 086 216 704

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