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NEWSLETTER

CHERRYHOOD SOCIETY



Some of the group on the otways weekend

VOL. 28, NUMBER 4
JULY/AUGUST
2006

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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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.*

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 Norma Hodges 9878 9584. Brenda Girdlestone 9390 7073 and Mirini Lang 9886 6109.

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.

CALENDER OF EVENTS 2006

JULY MEETING

Thursday the 20th July, at 8.00pm at the Kevin Heinze Centre Weatherby Road, Doncaster.

We are pleased to have Mr Milton Dyer of Multicrop to come to our meeting to discuss with the members the use of fertilisers and other products in the Multicrop range.

This should help to solve some of the problems that members may come across when wanting to use the correct products for the right job.

Competition fern: Pyrrosia

AUGUST MEETING

Thursday the 17th August, at 8.00pm at the Kevin Heinze Centre Weatherby Road, Doncaster.

Again we have been fortunate enough to persuade our founding member Mr Chris Goudey to speak on his favourite ferns Adiantum (Maidenhair ferns).

For those members who do not yet know Chris he is a well regarded authority on Adiantum's, which he is always happy to talk to members about. Chris is also very knowledgeable about other ferns, so these night are always informative and a delight to attend.

Competition fern: Adiantum (Maidenhair Fern)

PRESIDENTIAL PERORATION

Those of us who were able to participate in the visit to the Otways (reported more fully elsewhere in this issue) had a most enjoyable and invigorating time. As you'd expect, we had little trouble finding a large number of fern species, large and small. By the time we'd finished, we'd located examples of most of those known to the Otways. We even found a very nice, single example of *Pteris umbrosa* (the "Jungle Brake") which according to at least some authorities is not listed as occurring in the Otways. It was in "show condition", and right beside a much-used walking path - indeed, I confess that the discovery made me momentarily suspicious that John Hodges had slipped down to the spot the previous day and planted it just to create some extra excitement!

It's always a pleasure to find nice examples of *Cyathea cunninghami* (the Slender Treefern) growing in the bush, as we did during this visit. And it was also good to find that at their "Mr. Fern" nursery operation, Les and Rosemary Vulcz were growing on plenty of plants of this species (along with lots of others), and also reported success in encouraging quantities of self-sown sporelings of *C. cunninghami* in a part of their property which has a couple of mature specimens growing.

We had a most interesting presentation by artist Laurie Andrews at our May meeting on her work creating botanical illustrations of ferns (she has concentrated on illustrating native Victorian ferns), the techniques she uses, and her experiences in the world of botanical art including the honour of being accepted to exhibit at the Royal Horticultural Society's annual event in London at which she received recognition with an RHS award. Thanks to Brenda Girdlestone for arranging the invitation to Laurie for our Meeting. Laurie's work will be on display near her home in Gippsland at an event to be held in a few months. We'll publish details nearer the time for members who may like to attend this.

In June, our member Terry Turney delivered a most informative talk on Aspleniums, which we hope to report upon in a future Newsletter. Thanks Terry.

Barry Stagoll

FUTURE DATES AND MEETINGS

Thursday the 15th September, 2006

Speaker: Barry White
Subject: *Pteris* Ferns

Sunday the 3rd December, 2006

Christmas Break up
Lunch will be at the Kevin Heinze Centre, more information in next newsletter

Sunday the 22nd October, 2006

Excursion: to Melbourne Museum
Further information can be found on page 63 of this newsletter.

January there is no meeting

Thursday the 17th November, 2006

Guest speaker: Bruce Fuhrer
Subject: Mosses and Lichens

Thursday the 15th February, 2007

Speakers: Eddie and Robyn Sabljak
Subject: Growing tree Ferns and Ground Ferns

FERN SHOW 2006

The Combined Fern And Vireya Rhododendron Show for 2006 was held on the 22nd - 23rd April at the Mt Waverley Community Centre. The weather was fine on both days and the attendance satisfactory. This resulted in a reasonable financial return from the Show.

Our display was of excellent standard with our feature display containing a good representation of Adiantum ferns. A pleasing aspect was the number and quality of ferns provided by members. Our two specialist displays were again provided by Chris and Lorraine Goudey of Austral Ferns and Eddie and Robyn Sabljak of Fern Acres Nursery and were excellent as usual despite injury and health concerns among these people. The Fern Competition was again held and our judge has commented favourably on the quality of the ferns entered. The number of ferns entered was down slightly on last year.

Our thanks go to John Hodges who organised and provided most of the plants for an excellent display of Fern Allies and Oddities. This display created great interest.

The Fern Sales Area was again very well stocked with a great range of ferns. Sales were good with the value of sales up on last year.

The committee wishes to thank all those members who supported the show and provided great ferns for the competition and displays. Our thanks also go to those who assisted with the running of the Show and especially the great number helping with the setting up, and with the packing and cleaning up after the Show. It was done in record time and greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Mary Frost who again judged the Fern Competition and for her helpful comments, also to Multicrop (Aust) Pty.Ltd. who once again sponsored our fern competition. We greatly value their support of our society. Special thanks to George Start who made his utility available and transported all our props.

Don Fuller - For Fern Show Committee

Mrs. Mary Frost

Dear Don

I would like to congratulate you and your team on all the work towards the lovely Fern Show this year including the extra display by John Hodges which was very interesting and different. The ferns displayed were excellent specimens for all to see and admire.

The ferns in the competition were really very good showing new growth and healthy. The Adiantum section was superb and the only reason some ferns did not win was because they were not presented really well with a few untidy fronds on them. Congratulations to all the winners with the best fern a really superb specimen beautifully cleaned and showing lovely growth and a really even plant all round. Well done.

In the fern newsletter you often remind members to start cleaning their ferns.

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Otways Visit

By Barry White

On the morning of Saturday 29th April nine couples and two junior members gathered in Apollo Bay, most having stayed overnight in the somewhat misnamed Grandview Holiday flats.

The weather forecast was not the best – an occasional shower which in the Otways usually means steady rain. However the rain gods smiled on the group, some rain occurred while driving to the first spot, and again when visiting the last spot on Sunday. The main bulk of the weekend was fine weather.

The first spot visited was Mait's Rest on the way to Lavers Hill. Named after former forestry patrol officer Maitland Bryant, it is one of the top fern walks in the Otways. It has a mixture of board walks and compacted aggregate with gentle slopes. It has ferns in abundance and was the only spot where *Lastreopsis hispida* (Bristly shield-fern) was found. There is a complete fern list at the end of the article.



The next stop was at Beauty Spot a few kilometers east of Lavers Hill. Beauty Spot is the old road to Lavers Hill. It is easy walking with a good variety of fern along each side of the old road. *Todea barbara* (King Fern) was found high up on the road bank. On a previous visit to this spot a collection of marijuana plants was found, but diligent searching proved futile.

The group stopped at Lavers Hill for lunch and to help the meal settle went for a stroll through an overgrown public garden adjacent to the café. Surprising finds included two large *Cyathea medullaris* (black tree-fern from New Zealand) also two *Cyathea dealbata* the N.Z. silver tree-fern and *Cyathea cooperi* plus some exotic ground ferns.



After lunch the group visited Melba Gully just 3 Kilometres past Lavers Hill. This is another renowned fern walk and a must for any visit to the Otways. Originally there were two sawmills and a tramway in Melba Gully. In 1921 a Mrs. Jessie Fry established tea rooms where the current car park is located and named the picnic spot after our famous singer Dame Nellie Melba. The property was sold in 1958 to Mr. and Mrs. Axel Madsen, who donated it to the Victorian Conservation Trust in 1975. It is now managed by Parks Victoria. The track through Melba Gully is called Madsens track. As well as the ferns Melba Gully is also noted for the glow worms which are the larvae of the fungus gnats; the glossy black shelled carnivorous snail (*Victaphanta compacta*) found only in the Otways, and the endangered spotted-tail Quoll.

Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) and Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) are the dominant trees, the "Big Tree" is a hybrid eucalypt with a girth of 27 metres, and 33 ferns are reported to be present in the park. Noteworthy are the large clumps of *Asplenium flaccidum* (Weeping Splenwort) high up in the trees.

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Drynaria rigidula varieties

The May/June issue of the Newsletter had an article on *Drynaria* which stated that the cultivar *Vidgenii* is usually erroneously called cv. *Whitei*.

'*Vidgenii*' and '*Whitei*' are two separate varieties of *Drynaria rigidula*. The information below comes from "Ferns of Queensland" by S.B. Andrews, published by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries in 1990. As both '*Vidgenii*' and '*Whitei*' were found in the wild they should be referred to as "varieties" rather than as "cultivars".

Drynaria rigidula '*Vidgenii*'

Based on *Polypodium rigidulum* var. *vidgenii* F.M. Bail., Fern World Austr. 68 (1881).

Narrowly triangular pinnae with deeply toothed margins. See pinna on the left

Mt French near Boonah, Logan River, Cairns - Herberton area.

Drynaria rigidula '*Whitei*'

Based on *Polypodium rigidulum* var. *whitei* F.M. Bail., Qd agric. J. 27: 306 t. 22 (1911).

Broadly triangular pinnae with deeply toothed and lobed margins. See pinna on the right.

Glasshouse Mountains, Keppel Islands.



Lycopodium squarrosum (Tassel ferns)

Members interested in these may appreciate the information that Geoff Howe, a recently retired NSW nursery proprietor has plants which he raised still for sale. He is prepared to mail plants growing in 5-6inch pot size for \$25.00 including postage and packing. Smaller plants (4 inch pot size, a couple of years old) are \$12.50 incl. p & p. He can be contacted on (02) 65856150, or write to him at 765 Beechmont Road, BEECHMONT NSW 2446.

VALE

Valerie Blanchonette

Those members acquainted with Val will be saddened to learn that she passed away early in the year. We extend our sincere condolences to Val's husband Bruce.

Gwen Barrett

Most members will know Jack Barrett, and long-time member and Committee member. Jack's wife Gwen passed away a few weeks back. We offer sincere condolences to Jack on behalf of the Society.

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In our March/April newsletter, page 25, we printed a article from Sherry Prince in Tasmania about *Dicksonia antarctica* with a promise to print the reply in the following newsletter. Due to an oversight from the editor the article was missed in the last issue, so here it is now.

Gay & Barry Stagoll sent the following response to Sherry. Readers are invited to contribute their own ideas on the subject for publication in future issues.

Sherry,

To take your last question first, "man-fern" is a local description (common name) for *Dicksonia antarctica* which seems to have been restricted to Tasmania. On the mainland the common name is "soft tree fern". It's fine to use common names (which vary between different localities for the same species of many a genus of plants) just as long as you can be sure that your meaning is understood. If there's a doubt about what plant is meant, the solution is to revert to the unique botanic name for it.

On the question of the life span of *Dicksonia antarctica*, what seems certain is that this is anything but short in human terms. However, like all living organisms, single individuals don't live forever even in ideal environments. I don't believe that there is any simple totally empirical method for ascertaining the actual age of a specimen. Their structure is unlike that of a tree, so there's no equivalent to the counting of annual growth rings. They will throw a variable number of new fronds in particular years, depending on varying seasonal conditions (and probably also their stage of maturity), so counting the evidence of these won't produce a reliable number. My guess is that reasonable estimates of age might be arrived at from an approximation of growth rates (specific to a particular location) based on observing the lengthening of the trunks of a selection of tree ferns over a reasonably extended period (at least a number of years long). Mark Large and John Braggins in *Tree Ferns* (CSIRO Publishing 2004) at pages 19/20 write that 'Large, slow-growing tree

ferns (for example *Dicksonia antarctica* adapted for forest growth (may) reach possibly in excess of 200 years', quoting a number of published studies.



To come to your first question, which I think will interest all of us involved in the practical exercise of actually growing tree ferns, our own experience suggests that "narrowing of the crown" (where the fern produces progressively smaller, weaker fronds, and the caudex atrophies) is typically the result of the upper part of the trunk becoming too exposed to drying out - usually a combination of exposure to heat and wind (particularly wind, even cold wind) and, as a consequence, inadequate humidity. Their ideal situation is one of persistently generous humidity. In nature these plants tend to retain spent fronds in some abundance, and these form a protective screen around the upper trunk which filters wind and assists in maintaining humidity. If we never intervened to remove these from our plants then they would almost certainly grow more happily, but of course we're always tempted to remove them for the sake of "tidiness" and showing of the plant to it's "best". In dry periods, watering should concentrate on wetting the upper trunk as well as the ground. Overhead watering of the crown is not particularly helpful, as too much can rot the new growing tissues. Although we've used "drippers" or "bubblers" only occasionally ourselves on the upper trunks of tree ferns, we've seen others use them more generally, and they seem to be helpful.

One shouldn't rule out nutritional deficiencies as a possible contributing cause, and it's always wise to fertilise *Dicksonia* plants regularly. In applying fertiliser we include the fronds and emerging fronds, and generally the top section of the plant as that's

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The final stop for the day was at Les and Rosemary Vulcz's property. Trading as "Mr. Fern" Les and Rosemary export large amounts of tree ferns, mainly *Dicksonia antarctica* (Soft Tree-fern) some of which are harvested under licence from areas being clear felled but an increasing number are being grown on their farm. Most of their 80 hectare farm is devoted to raising tree-ferns. While most of the *Dicksonia antarctica*s are exported as bare trunks many are also exported as potted specimens. At the finish of the visit Les and Rosemary gave a *Dicksonia fibrosa* to each couple in the group and also donated a large *Sticherus tener* for the monthly raffle.

On the Sunday morning the group headed to Skenes Creek and then inland to Turtons Track. The track is an unmade road which winds towards Beech Forest and is lined both sides with ferns. Finding a parking area for a convoy of cars is difficult but a suitable spot was found enabling the group to wander up and down the track whilst avoiding cars driven by persons oblivious to the beauty of ferns.



The first main visit was to Beauchamp Falls. These are off the Aire Valley Road. The three-kilometre return walking track to the falls winds down to Deppeler Creek. The magnificent falls plunge into a fern-fringed pool. The walk wanders along the creek through some beautiful fern areas and can be highly recommended.

Luncheon was at Triplet Falls car park which is located off Phillips Rd. The walk has just been re-opened after extensive construction of metal board walks. The walk takes a roundabout route to the falls through some areas of large *Dicksonia antarctica*s. The construction has necessarily caused damage along the way and the walk will be much better in twelve month's time. While the boardwalk does protect the area one cannot have the close-up view of the ferns as one is able to get in a walk such as at Beauchamp Falls. The walk does however provide several magnificent views of the falls.

The final visit was to the "Otway Fly" in Phillips Rd. The Otway Fly is an elevated walk 600 metres long and at height of about 25 metres. There is a 25 metre cantilevered section where thrill seekers can do some rock and roll. The walk gives a bird's eye view of the forest and the tree ferns down below many of which were provided by Les and Rosemary Vulcz. The walk is worth doing once but it is better to be down amongst the ferns.

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where most of the growing activity happens. We never use inorganic fertilisers, fearing tissue burning from them, preferring fish or seaweed based ones, animal manures made into a liquid brew, etc. and always well-diluted. Our experience also suggests that it's not impossible to keep the fern healthy and encourage it into the production of more normal fronds in the future by modifying the conditions it experiences, but this isn't easy, and one shouldn't expect that eventually it'll throw "monster" fronds however much attention is lavished on it. If the crown has atrophied to a serious extent, then it may well help the plant to recover vigour by removing the top section and replanting it, particularly if it's replanted into a more benign location.

The mere fact that reducing its trunk size and replanting it will lower the crown will be beneficial, because the nearer the crown is to the ground, the less wind it will have to cope with. The shorter trunk will mean that the whole plant can draw moisture up from the ground to the level of its crown of fronds more easily as well.

As a final observation, like all sorts of plants, individuals can be quite different in overall size, and the size and colouration of various parts, depending on the particular environmental conditions in which they're growing. It's always going to be pretty difficult to grow in the average garden situation Dicksonias on a par with those established in their most favourable wild environments.

Hope this helps.

Gay & Barry Stagoll

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I feel if you do not have hundreds of ferns you should clean

them at least quarterly and the problem of missing a few untidy fronds would not occur.

What ferns you can grow well you should concentrate on to grow winning plants, and forget struggling with the ferns that you have trouble growing. I have found personally that it is best to work on what I can grow well and put on a display of these as my ferns have many nights of frost sometimes -5 degrees, and in summer this year for example, 69 days of heat over 30degree with 29 of these over 35 degrees. So there are many ferns I just cannot grow, these I just admire.

Well done again to everyone involved with the Fern Show. It was a great pleasure to judge this year.

Regards
Mary Frost.

Note: attached were photos of very large and beautiful Nephrolepis ferns.



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Ferns of the Otways

	Maits Rest	Beauty Spot	Melba Gully	Beauchamp Falls
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	x		x	
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>		x	x	x
<i>Blechnum minus</i>			x	
<i>Blechnum nudum</i>			x	x
<i>Blechnum wattsii</i>	x		x	x
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	x		x	
<i>Cyathea australis</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	x			x
<i>Cyathea marcescens</i>	x			
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Diplazium australe</i>			x	x
<i>Grammitis billardiarei</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>		x	x	x
<i>Hymenophyllum australe</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Hymenophyllum cupressiforme</i>	x			x
<i>Hymenophyllum flabellifolium</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Hypolepis amaurorachis</i>		x	x	
<i>Lastreopsis acuminata</i>	x	x	x	
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	x			
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Polyphlebium venosum</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>		x	x	x
** <i>Pteris umbrosa</i>			x	
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Sticherus tener</i>		x		x
<i>Todea barbara</i>		x		

** Not native to the Otways

BOOKS FOR SALE

Mirini Lang our librarian has been busy in the past few months sorting out our library books. We have some multiple copies that the committee has decided are no longer needed. The excess books can be brought by our members who wish to give them a good home. These books are on first in basis so if you are interested in any, you need to contact Mirini on (03) 9886 6109 to reserve your copy.

A full list of books available and prices can be seen on page 61.

POLYSTICHUMS

The genus *Polystichum* was the fern competition category for the May meeting. There was a good representation of the genus with the species listed below all being present.

The genus *Polystichum* is placed in the Dryopteridaceae family by the "Flora of Australia". Other common members of this family include *Cyrtomium*, *Rumohra*, *Lastreopsis*, *Dryopteris*, and *Arachniodes*. The distinguishing characteristics of *Polystichum* is that the veins are free (cf *Cyrtomium*), it does not have a creeping rhizome but grows upright (cf *Rumohra*), the stipe is densely scaly at the base and not hairy, the groove on the main rachis is not continuous with groove on secondary rachis (cf *Lastreopsis*), and the ridges on either side of the groove are not continuous with a thickened pinnule margin (cf *Dryopteris* and *Arachniodes*).

There are four *Polystichum* present in Australia. They are: - *P. proliferum*, *P. formosum*, *P. australiense* and *P. fallax*

Polystichum proliferum (mother shield fern) Occurs in N.S.W., Vic. and Tas. It is a medium growing fern with erect rhizomes, dark green fronds. Grows in colonies, the fronds develop plantlets near the ends of the fronds, and can easily be propagated by the bulbils. Blades are lanceolate to broader at the base and two to three pinnate, pinnules are toothed.

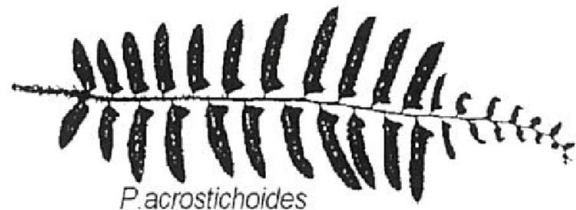
P. formosum occurs in S.E. Queensland, N.S.W and Eastern Vic. It is of similar habit to *P. proliferum*, but it is a smaller fern and without bulbils. The marginal lobes are deeply serrated with sharp teeth.

P. australiense occurs in N.S.W. It is a larger fern than *P. proliferum* with a rougher texture. The fronds are up to one metre long and possess terminal bulbils.

P. fallax (fallax meaning false, why I don't know, perhaps because it may have been confused with *P. formosum*). It occurs in S.E. Queensland and N.S.W. It is of similar size to *P. formosum* and also lacks terminal bulbils. It is distinguished from *P. formosum* by having two types of scales on the rhizome and stipe base. The spores are a fawn colour compared with dark brown to black spores of *P. formosum*.

P. acrostichoides (Christmas fern)

Acrostichoides means resembling the Acrostichum fern where the sori completely cover the underneath surface. Native to North America, it is a medium growing fern with clump-forming rhizomes; fronds are evergreen with the new fronds silvery in colour. It is characterized by once pinnate blades, the fertile pinnules are at the tip of the frond and the sporangia are clustered together in the narrow pinnae.



P. lonchitis (northern holly fern) lonchitis = spear or lance shaped

Native to North America, and Greenland a medium fern with ascending to erect rhizomes, dark green, evergreen fronds. Stipes are short, blades are linear, one pinnate, narrowing towards the base. This is a difficult fern to grow, resenting being disturbed, and is slow to recover.

P. tsus-simense, named after the Tsushima Islands in the strait between Korea and Japan. Native to China, Japan and Korea; it is a small to medium, compact fern with spreading rosette of stiff leathery fronds.

P. setiferum (soft shield fern) setiferum = bearing bristles, bristly

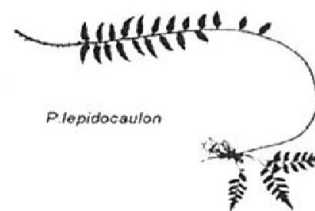
Native to Europe, a medium to large fern with erect rhizomes, fronds are evergreen in warmer climates. Stipes are more than one sixth the length of frond, blades are lanceolate and two pinnate, the lower pinnae equal in length to the middle pinnae. This fern is generally soft to the touch. It may have many bulbils along the length of the rachis.

P. aculeatum (hard shield fern) aculeatum = having prickles

Native to Europe, it is a medium growing fern with ascending to erect rhizomes, stiff, glossy, evergreen fronds. It is characterized by short stipes, fronds lanceolate and nearly two pinnate with the basal pinnate half the
continue next page

Continued from previous page
length of the middle ones.

P. braunii (prickly shield fern), named after Alexander Braun a German professor of Botany. Native to North America, Europe, and Asia, a small to medium growing fern with clump-forming rhizomes, dark green shiny fronds, it will tolerate cold although it may become deciduous. New fronds occur in a silvery flush. It is characterized by short, dense scaly stipes, usually one quarter the length of the frond. The blades are two pinnate gradually narrowed towards the base. Pinnules are short stalked and bristly.



P. lepidocaulon (= graceful stem). A small to medium fern from Japan and East Asia. It has once pinnate fronds; the terminal portion of the rachis extends well beyond the pinnae and has a terminal bulbil.

P. xiphophyllum (= sword shaped leaf) A native of India and China, this is a medium sized fern which is easy to grow.

P. retroso-paleacum (= backward facing scales) A native of Japan and China, this easy to grow fern is of medium to large size. It has bright green, shiny fronds and has a dense covering of scales.

P. vestitum (= covered, referring to the dense covering with scales). A New Zealand fern, it is of medium size, has a dense covering with scales, and harsh prickly fronds.

Title	Author	Price	Copies available
Australian Ferns and Allied Plants	Jones, Clemesha	\$20	2
Common Ferns and Allies	Heath, Chinnock	\$5	1
Ferns and Fern Allies of NZ	Heath, Chinnock	\$7	1
Exotic Ferns in Australia	Jones, Goudey	\$15	3
Fern Collectors Guide	Chute	\$5	1
Fern Growers Manual	Hoshizaki	\$10	1
Ferns	Grounds	\$10	1
Ferns a Handbook	Brookland Botanic Gardens	\$5	1
Ferns and Club Mosses	Roohe, Stead	\$2	1
Ferns for Modern Living	Merchants Pub. Co.	\$5	3
Ferns for the Home and Garden	Dunk	\$10	1
Ferns from Mother Nature	Gick	\$4	4
Ferns of Victoria and Tasmania	Wakefield	\$8	4
Growing Ferns	Best	\$5	2
Hardy Ferns	Kaye	\$10	1
Irish Ferns	Synnott	\$5	1
Student Flora of North Eastern NSW	Uni of New England	\$5	5
The Ferns of Britain and Ireland	Page	\$15	1
The Genus Pyrrossia in Cultivation (Baileya)	Hoshizaki	\$5	2
The Genus Selaginellia	Alston	\$10	1
The Home Gardeners Book of Ferns	Mickle	\$5	1

The Rippon Lea Fernery - A brief sequel to last month's article

When we viewed slides taken in the Fernery (after the talk by Justin Buckley at the meeting we reported in the last issue), we were reminded not only of the big contribution that the Fern Society and individual members made to the restocking of the fern collection, but also of the remarkable growth that took place in the Fernery in the subsequent year. It was a favourable year weatherwise. However, the Rippon Lea gardening staff made a very professional and very effective contribution to the highly successful refurbishment of the collection - applying trace elements, blood and bone, potash, and several doses of high nitrogen slow release fertilisers (to counteract nitrogen drawdown from new mulch breaking down) as the new plants got themselves established.

We thought we'd share just a few of the images with Newsletter readers this month.



Treeferns prior to underplanting October 1985 Exterior view of restored Fernery Oct 1985



C. Cooperi enjoys new freedom Dec 1986



Flourishing ground plantings December 1986

**Fern Society of Victoria visit to Forest Gallery and Live Exhibits,
Museum Victoria
Sunday 22 October 2006**

Our member Robin Wilson, a staff member of the Museum, has kindly arranged a visit for FSV members, primarily to view and to learn more about the remarkable Forest Gallery exhibit. There will be no charge for admission. Numbers will be limited, so if you're interested in joining this visit, please contact Barry or Gay Stagoll (Tel. 98841558) or Barry White (Tel. 97402724) to register your interest. (If leaving a message, please state the number of places required and leave your phone number). Places will be reserved in order of receipt of requests. (We'll confirm all reservations).

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
10 am	Discovery Centre, lower ground floor, Melbourne Museum, Carlton Gardens.	Arrive and meet (Robin Wilson)
10.30am	Discovery Centre seminar room:	"Behind the scenes at the Forest Gallery" talk (Luke Simpkin, Manager Forest Gallery and Live Exhibits)
11.15am	Forest Gallery and back of house	Tour of Forest Gallery and Live Exhibits (Luke Simpkin)
12.00pm	Marine Zoology research laboratories, level 3E	Introduction to Marine Zoology research laboratories and collections (Robin Wilson)
12.30pm	Marine Zoology meeting space, level 3E	Lunch (byo sandwiches and mug; coffee and tea bags supplied)
1.30pm	Finish	End of formal tour. Welcome to stay and visit remaining public exhibitions at Melbourne Museum for remainder of the afternoon.

Further information:

Melbourne Museum is situated in Carlton Gardens, between Nicholson and Rathdown Streets, Carlton. The entrance is in the middle of the block, opposite the dome of the adjacent Royal Exhibition Building. Opening hours are 10-5 (you will not be able to get in before 10 am).

There is a commercial underground carpark beneath the museum plaza, but it is expensive. Four hour meter parking is available in Nicholson Street heading towards the city just before you reach Melbourne Museum. Other street parking options will be advised closer to the time. All-day street parking options are very limited and further away. Melbourne Museum is a 10 minute walk from Parliament Station, and trams number 86 and 96 stop adjacent to the Museum, so public transport will be the best option for many people.

If you do not wish to take a BYO lunch, there is a cafeteria at the Museum (and for those who need a cappuccino). Expect to pay \$10-12 for a roll/sandwich/pie and a drink.

NEWSLETTER
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