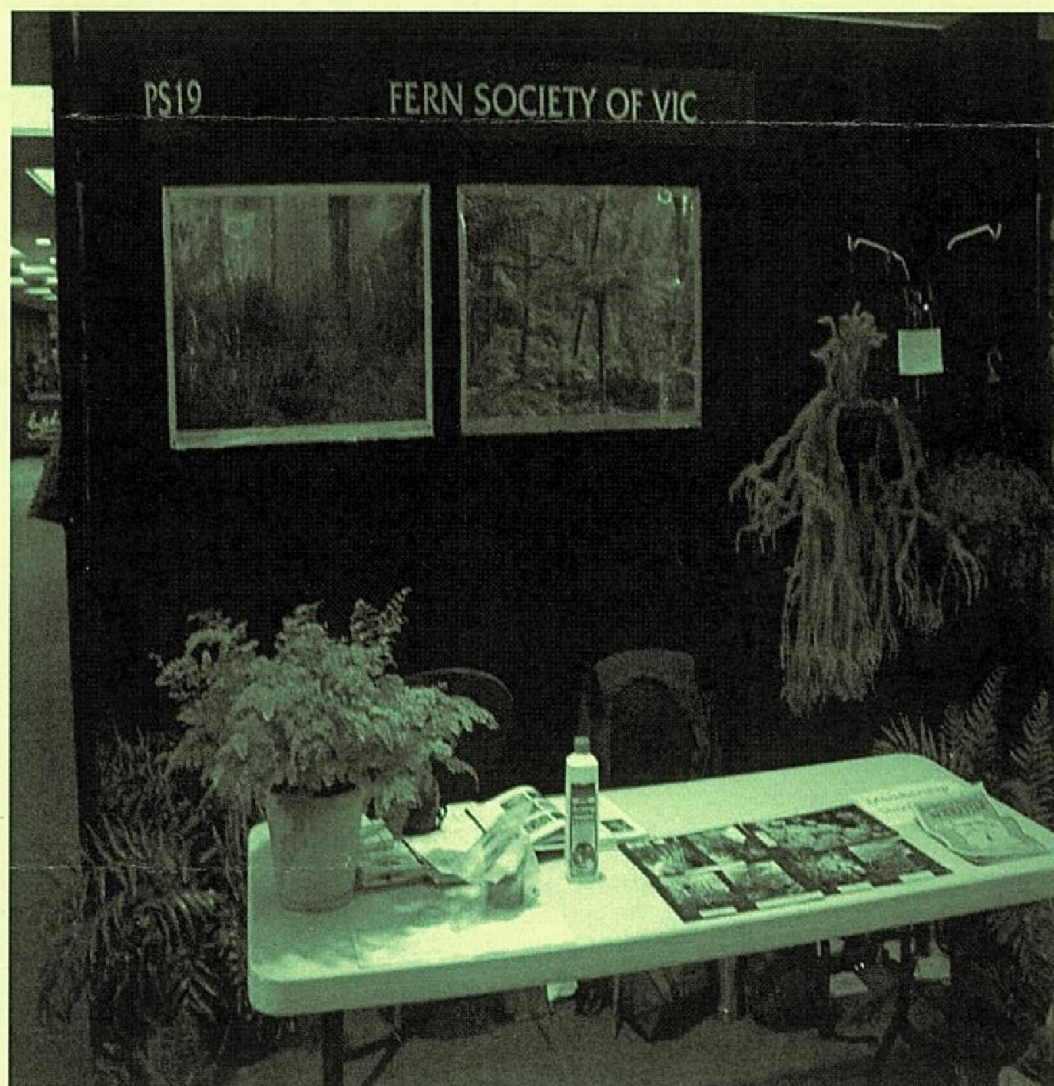


ABN 85 086 216 704

# NEWSLETTER

FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007



**VOL. 29, NUMBER 6**  
**NOVEMBER/  
DECEMBER 2007**



# **FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.**

**POSTAL ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 45, Heidelberg West, Victoria, 3081  
**Email:** barry\_white1@msn.com.au  
**Web:** http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fernsvic/

## **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:	Barry Stagoll	9844 1558	mirra@iimetro.com.au
Imm. Past President			
Vice President	Don Fuller	9306 5570	
Secretary	Barry White	9740 2724	
Treasurer	Don Fuller	9306 5570	
Spore Bank Manager	Barry White	9740 2724	
Librarian	Mirini Lang	9886 6109	
Editor	Brenda Girdlestone	9390 7073	macstone@hotmail.net.au

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Gay Stagoll 9844 1558, Norma Hodges 9878 9584, Brenda Girdlestone 9390 7073, Mirini Lang 9886 6109  
Milton Edwards 9655 5335, Robin Wilson 9597 0742.

## **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.



# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007**

## **NOVEMBER MEETING**

**Thursday the 15th, at 8.00pm at the Kevin Heinze Centre Wetherby Road, Doncaster.**

**Our speaker for the night will be Barry White talking about ferns and gardens of the United Kingdom, from his trip earlier this year.**

**Competition category: Ferns from the United Kingdom**

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## **DECEMBER MEETING**

**Sunday the 2nd, will be our Christmas break up, starting at 11.30am at the Kevin Heinze Centre Wetherby Rd, Doncaster.**

**We will be running our popular blind auction, half of the money raised from this event is donated to the Kevin Heinze Centre.**

**This year we will also be combining a members fern sale day, so any member who has a fern or many ferns that are surplus and are interested to sell, or members who are interested to buy ferns will be given the opportunity to do so on this day.**

**Further information on our Christmas break up can be found on page 88.**



# **PRESIDENTIAL PERORATION**

Members present at the Society's Annual General Meeting in September voted to extend my term as President for a further year. I am grateful for the vote of confidence, and am honoured to have the opportunity to continue in this role into 2008.

I have been very ably supported by colleagues on the Committee, and at the AGM I thanked them - on my behalf and yours - as members for their efforts. Long-serving Committee member Jack Barrett retired at the AGM - Jack was a willing contributor to the Society throughout the course of his Committee participation. Vice-President, Treasurer (and Show Manager) Don Fuller; Secretary (& Spore Bank Manager) Barry White; Editor Brenda Girdlestone; and Librarian (also Acting Secretary at Committee meetings as and when required) Mirini Lang all deserve our sincere appreciation, as do ordinary Committee members Norma Hodges and Gay Stagoll for their contributions and assistance in organising FSV activities. We are also very pleased to be able to acknowledge the election of Milton Edwards and Robin Wilson as incoming Committee members.

Whilst on the subject of thanks due to members who make special contributions in various ways to the workings of the Society, I also included thanks to all those members who had during the 2006/2007 year presented talks to our meetings (in addition to several of our Committee members, these included Don Fuller, Chris Goudey, Keith Hutchinson and, Terry Turney). Keith also continued to assist in such things as judging exhibits and taping meetings. Barry White carried the main burden of organising the two FSV excursions involving overnight stops, receiving valuable assistance from Warren and Carolyn Simpson for the Gippsland excursion. Robin Wilson worked hard to organise our very successful Melbourne Museum visit, and our thanks are also due to Mirini and her husband Russell for much hard work in preparing our FSV DVD for production and sale. Norma and John Hodges have continued to work tirelessly in readying the Kevin Heinz Centre for our meetings and in organising our Christmas functions. Margaret Radley continued to look after our monthly special effort ticket sales and the bi-monthly mailing of Newsletters as she's done for many years, and we've made good use of the fine handcrafted wooden boxes Reg Orr kindly donated to the Society for raffle prizes and for gifts to guest speakers (including one presented to Ron Robbins who came all the way from South Australia to speak to us at the October meeting).

I regret that we have also to record this month that Margaret Radley has been taken seriously ill, and is at present in Box Hill Hospital. We sincerely hope she makes a speedy recovery.

As usual at this time of year (this being the last opportunity to do so in a Newsletter) I'd like to wish those members who won't be along at our Christmas lunch in December a Merry Christmas, and all the best for the New Year.

*Barry Stagoll*

Front cover:

The display stand at ABC Gardening Show at Caulfield Race Course.



# ABC Garden Show

With the drought enforced cancellation of the Fern Society show this year the Society decided to mount a stand at the ABC Garden Show at Caulfield Racecourse.

The Show was held over three days from 5<sup>th</sup> October. Our stand was a small one set up to hand out information about the Society. John and Norma Hodges provided some display ferns a feature of which was a magnificent tassel fern, a *Huperzia* from New Guinea, and located just behind Norma's head. This proved to be an excellent drawcard and attracted many people to the stand. A good number of sample Newsletters and information brochures about the Society were handed out. A full assessment of the benefits of the exercise will need to wait on the number of membership applications which may be returned.



Bernie Thomson, Barry White and Norma Hodges

Thank you to those members who assisted in mounting the stand.

## Cultivation Notes - Things to do in November-December

by Keith Hutchison

All repotting and planting of new ferns should be completed by now, and a feeding program well under way. I recommend any of the following:

- Fish emulsion
- Cow manure used as a liquid
- Thrive (the one marked for flowers and fruit) at half strength (high in nitrogen and potash)
- Maxicrop should be added to any of the above for the mineral and trace element content

As the drought continues, I feel a watering of Wettasoil at least once a month for all ferns would be advantageous.

Groom all ferns and remove any damaged fronds and check for pests. As the weather warms, juvenile scale insects (microscopic six-legged insects) emerge from under the parent scale insect and spread over the new fronds; they settle on a spot, lose their legs and start sucking the life out of the fern. A spray with Confidor or Carbaryl is effective, but a follow-up in 4 weeks is important.

Check all elks and stags for the Staghorn Beetle, among the spore under the tips of the fertile fronds. Trim and dispose of them in the garbage (not the compost). Feed now with a little pulverised cow manure, Dynamic Lifter, or Osmocote wrapped in some sphagnum moss placed behind the shield fronds. As all *Platynerium*s hate to be overwatered, the drought has not been so hard on them, but a monthly watering of Wettasoil would be beneficial. One other pest to watch for is the Passion Vine Hopper, often called the Springtail as it springs into the air if you try to touch it. Once again, Carbaryl or Confidor is effective.

All treeferns should have their dead skirt fronds removed and composted. Some people feel that you should water the crest of them, where the new croziers are, but I don't agree. Mulching to root systems is more important as they are surface rooting.

For maidenhair ferns a teaspoon of lime or dolomite in a litre of water, poured around them, will assist them as they like a slightly alkaline soil.

Now is the time to set any spore you would like to grow.

Finally, it's also a good time to set any bulbils collected from *polystichums* and *aspleniums*, etc. into a propagating medium.



# Gippsland Excursion Report

By Barry White

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 17 members and two potential members met outside the Darnum hotel, a few kilometres east of Waragul. Lead by Warren and Carolyn Simpson the group headed south to the Mt. Worth State Park and the Moonlight Creek picnic area.

Mt Worth State Park had obviously benefited from recent good rain. The track was often quite wet underfoot, the ferns were lush and filmy ferns were present in abundance. Nineteen species of ferns were observed during the walk including one exotic *Se-laginella kraussiana*. Two members took a little detour but recovered without major drama.

The next stop was the Boolarra Fern Nursery run by two of our members, Rob and Marietta Herni. There the group had lunch in a shady part of the nursery, and enjoyed a browse through the good selection of ferns in the nursery as well as taking the opportunity of purchasing some unusual ferns.

Information on the Herni's fernery may be found at <http://www.boolarraplants.com.au/>



*Cyathea cunninghamii* (Tarra Valley)

The final visit for the day was to the Morwell National Park. The group met up with Ken Harris in the Kerry Road picnic area. Ken is the leader of the Friends of Morwell National Park and also maintains their web site at <http://morwellnp.pangaeon.net/browser/index.html> Ken was a very valuable source of information not only about the ferns but also about the many other plants in the park. The track was generally drier than the one at Mt. Worth and did not have the same quantity of ferns. Nevertheless eighteen species were observed. The total number of fern species listed for the park is 35 and therefore other areas of the park would be worth a checking out in a future visit.

Saturday night was spent at the Morwell Parkside Motel where a very pleasant and prolonged meal was had in the attached restaurant.

Next morning the party headed down to the Tarra Bulga National Park. On the way from Traralgon the group stopped at the Mt. Tassie lookout which at 730 metres is the highest point in the Strzelecki Ranges. Unfortunately slight mist spoilt the otherwise extensive views in all directions, and the strong wind provided an over supply of fresh air and ensured a short stay.

The first stop was the Bulga portion of the park. This was the first section to be preserved in 1903 and consisted of a 20 hectare pocket. It was given the name

Bulga from the aboriginal name for a mountain. A further area was preserved six years later and named after Charlie Tarra an aborigine who guided the Polish born explorer Strzelecki through Gippsland in 1840. In 1986 the two areas were joined and expanded and now cover over 2,000 hectares. The park was in excellent condition, oceans of filmy ferns, tree ferns exuding fountains of new fronds, and a lyre bird strolling in the car park.



*Sticherus urceolatus* (Umbrella Fern, Bulga Park)

continued page 87



## Gippsland Excursion Report

Lunch was had at the visitor's centre where the staff put on an audio-visual display on the history of the area.

After lunch the group covered the Tarra valley section of the Park. It is difficult to say which is the better section of the park, the suspension bridge in Bulga is a highlight but fernwise Tarra Valley is in front. Because the group took so long in the two sections of the park the final visit on the itinerary to Agnes Falls had to be abandoned

Altogether 35 species of ferns were noted over the weekend.

## Ferns observed over the weekend

## Fern areas

A. Mount Worth State Park

B. Morwell National Park

C. Tarra-Bulga National Park

	A	B	C
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>		X	
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> subsp. <i>Gracillimum</i>	X		X
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>		x	x
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>		x	
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	x		x
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	X		X
<i>Blechnum nudum</i>	x		
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i> subsp. <i>patersonii</i>	X		X
<i>Blachnum wattsii</i>	x		x
<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>		X	
<i>Crepidomanes venosum</i>	x		x
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>		X	
<i>Cyathea australis</i>	X	X	X
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>			x
<i>Cyathea X marcescens</i>			X
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	X	X	X
<i>Diplazium australe</i>		x	
<i>Doodia australis</i>		X	
<i>Grammitis billardieri</i>		x	X
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	X		X
<i>Hymenophyllum australe</i>	X	X	X
<i>Hymenophyllum cupressiforme</i>		x	x
<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>	x		x
<i>Hymenophyllum rarum</i>			x
<i>Hypolepis rugosula</i>			X
<i>Lastreopsis acuminata</i>	x	x	X
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> subsp. <i>pustulatum</i>	x	x	x
<i>Pellaea falcata</i>		x	
<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	x	X	X
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	x	x	x
<i>Pteris tremula</i>		x	
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	x		x
<i>Sellaginella kraussiana</i>	x		
<i>Sticherus urceolatus</i>			x
<i>Tmesipteris obliqua</i>			x



# Calendar of events

2008

**January** :There will be no meeting.

**February** :21st Will be guest speakers Eddie and Robin Sabljak talking on Growing tree ferns and ground ferns.

**March** : 20th we are hoping to convince one of the irrigation companies to give us their time and knowledge.

**April** : 17th will be a discussion of ferns for the drier conditions.

**EXCURSIONS:** It is hoped that we will organize a weekend excursion to Marysville area in the first half of the year possibly around April/May.

The later part of the year will possibly be an excursion around Gippsland and into New South Wales region, around September/October.

The above is only proposed and is subject to change, all changes and confirmation will be printed in forthcoming newsletters as they become available.

## **CHRISTMAS BREAK UP**

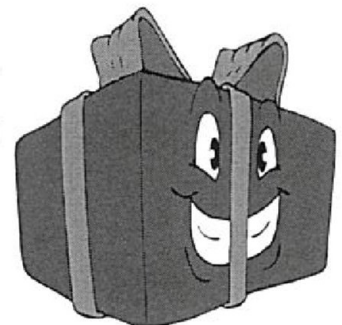
**Sunday the 2nd of December, will be our Christmas break up starting at 11.30am, again we will be tempted by the catering prowess of Norma Hodges and her helpers. Food supplied will be chicken and salads followed by deserts. You will need to bring with you plates, cutlery and any drinks you require (tea and coffee) will be supplied.**

**If you could bring a plate of afternoon tea which can be shared, so the day can finish with a cuppa and a bit to eat.**

**For catering purposes Norma needs to know numbers by the November meeting so if you are attending the next meeting let her know then, otherwise please call her on 9878 9584 before the November Meeting.**

**Again this year we will be conducting our popular blind auction so if you have anything you can donate for the day please wrap it and bring it along, this has proved to be a very entertaining part of the day. Bring some money to bid and maybe pick up a bargain or two.**

**This year we have decided to combine the day with a members fern sale this will give members who have a surplus of ferns to sell, (weather one or many) and members who wish to increase their collections the opportunity to do so. The normal 15% commission will apply to all fern sales on the day**





# To The Committee and Members of The Fern Society of Victoria Inc

From Bernadette Thomson.

Date 1 9th September 2007

I have examined the account books, bank records and receipts of The Fern Society Of Victoria Inc. and consider these accounts to be a true record of the finances for the operation of business for the year ending 30th June 2007.

Bernadette Thomson

## THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

### Statement of Income and Expenditure For Year ended 30 June 2007.

2006	SUMMARY	2007
3,072.78	Income - General Account	3,182.26
2,826.16	Less - Expenditure	3,026.26
246.62	Operating Surplus	156.00
579.19	Plus Fern Show Profit	Not held 2007
825.81	Operating Surplus for Year	156.00

## BALANCE SHEET

2006	MEMBERSFUNDS	2007
18,906.52	Brought forward from previous balance	19,732.33
246.62	Surplus / Deficit from General Account	156.00
579.19	Profit from Fern Show	Not held 2007
19,732.33		19,888.33

## REPRESENTED BY CURRENT ASSETS

2,944.58	<u>Cash at Bank</u> General Account	2,399.28
60.06	<u>Stock</u> Mugs	60.06
23.00	Magnifying Glass	-
16,869.69	<u>Investments</u> Term Deposits	17,614.88
19,897.33	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>20,074.22</b>
165.00	CURRENT LIABILITIES Pre-Paid Member Subscriptions	142.00
-	Unpresented cheques	43.89
19,732.33	<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1 9,888.33</b>



THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For Year ended 30 June 2007.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

2006	INCOME	2007
	<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u>	
1,405.00	Renewals	1,402.00
<u>264.00</u>	New Members	<u>123.00</u>
1,669.00		1,525.00
	<u>SALES &amp; COMMISSIONS</u>	
23.40	Spore Bank sales	41.20
24.60	Commission on Fern sales	-
165.40	Miscellaneous sales to members	15.00
-75.06	-less cost of goods	-
15.00	Sale of mugs (2)	-
120.00	Sale of unwanted library books	213.20
10.00	Sale of video tape & postage	-
-	Sale of Magnifying glass	<u>23.00</u>
283.34		292.40
	<u>SPECIAL EFFORTS</u>	
97.00	General	221.90
	<u>OTHER INCOMES</u>	
141.00	Advertising	164.00
201.60	Christmas Auction	151.00
-	Fern Show Partial refund of Deposit	82.50
<u>9.00</u>	Donation	-
351.60		397.50
<b>2,400.94</b>	<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>2,436.80</b>
	<u>NON OPERATING INCOME</u>	
.27	Bank interest Gen. Acc.	.27
<u>671.57</u>	Interest from Term Deposits	<u>745.19</u>
671.84		745.46
<b>3,072.78</b>	<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>3,182.26</b>

continued page 91



## THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For Year ended 30 June 2007

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

2006		EXPENDITURE 2007
	<u>NEWSLETTERS</u>	
1057.92	Printing	1078.86
<u>433.92</u>	Postage	<u>391.48</u>
1491.84		1470.34
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	
150.00	Honorariums	150.00
56.70	Registrations 1 Subscriptions	77.60
82.90	Administration 1 Secretary	73.83
209.18	Supper 1 Meals	208.40
370.00	Meeting Venue Rent	385.00
21.84	Guest Speaker (4 mugs)	23.89
.70	Bank Accounts debit tax	-
60.00	P.O. Box rental	65.00
100.00	Donation to Kevin Heinz Centre	-
	112 Proceeds of Christmas Auction	75.00
260.00	Insurance	270.00
-	Library books	117.20
92.00	Magnifying glassess	-
-69.00	- less sale of glasses	-
-	Fern Show Venue Deposit	110.00
1334.32		1555.92
<b>2,826.16</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,026.26</b>

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## September Raffle Winners:

Bernadette Thomson  
Margaret Radley  
Don Fuller  
Norma Hodges  
Pat Nicholls  
Mirini Lang

## October Competition Winners:

= 1st Keith Hutchison  
Platycerium veitchii



= 1st John Hodges  
Huperzia (tassel fern)



3rd John Hodges  
Platycerium veitchii



## October Raffle Winners:

Brenda Girdlestone x 2  
Robin Wilson  
Don Fuller  
Colin Cleat  
Barry Stagoll

Special raffle: which was kindly donated by Ron Robbins a Platycerium Grande.

Brenda Girdlestone

the bush house nursery  
Wholesale and retail

*Visitors welcome*  
Lorraine Deppler  
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Allensford. 3277



[www.geocities.com/bushhousenursery](http://www.geocities.com/bushhousenursery)

# Multicrop

## Maxicrop

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- Establishes plants quickly after planting or transplanting

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





The genus *Adiantum* is represented in Australia by nine species, most of which are quite common in cultivation.

*Adiantum philippense* is restricted to the three northern states (North Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia). Outside Australia it occurs throughout the tropics of most continents. It can usually be found growing in open forest in moist rock crevices or on moist clay embankments.

*A. philippense* has a short creeping rhizome with pinnate fronds up to 30 cm long, often rooting at the apex to form a new plant the same as *A. caudatum* and *A. edgeworthii*. The pinnae are crescent or moonshaped as its old name (*A. lunulatum*) suggests. The spores are marginal and elongated, sometimes continuous, but usually more or less interrupted.

In its wild state this fern is usually deciduous unless it occurs on a continuously moist site. The fronds die down completely leaving no trace of the fern until the wet season begins.

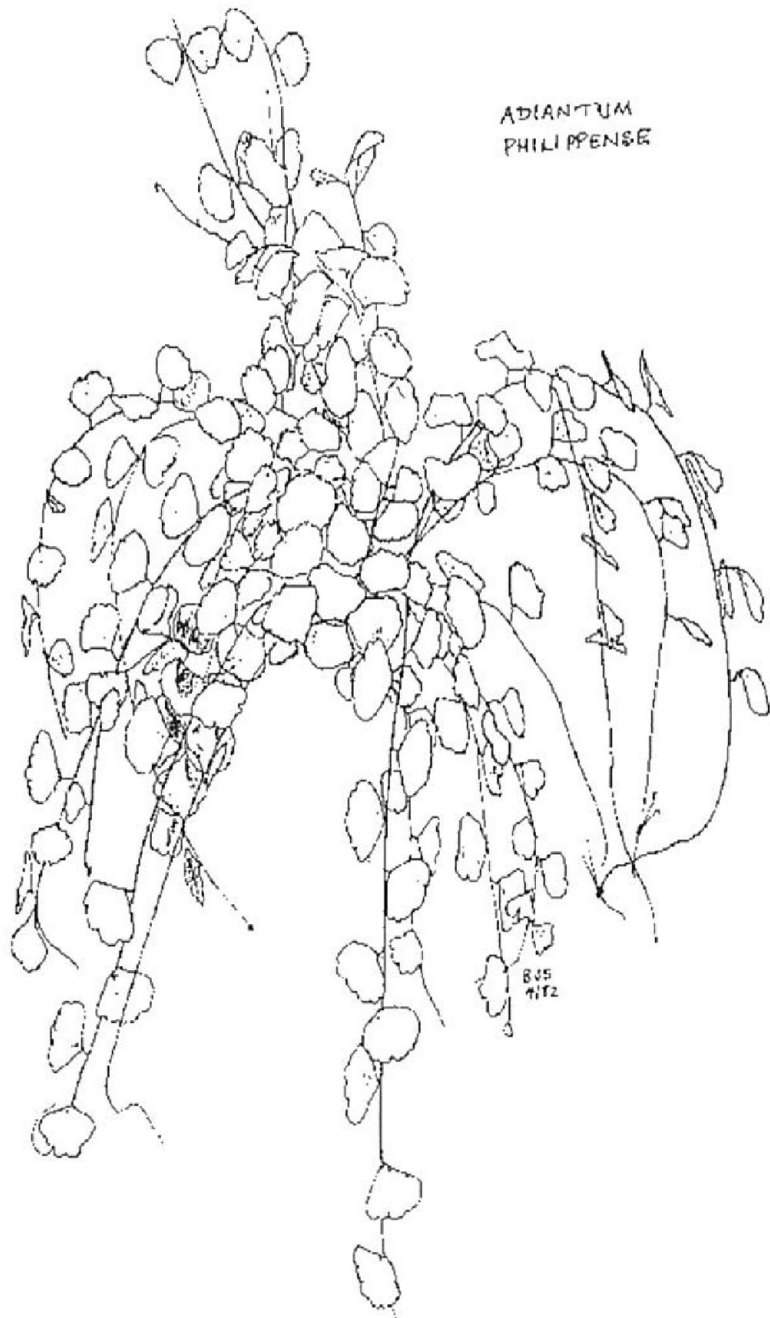
This delicate little fern is commonly cultivated throughout the tropics and is regarded as a weed in Tropical Africa, in India it is used for making bracelets by the wild tribes people.

In Northern Queensland it has acquired the more popular name amongst fern collectors as *Adiantum Tealeaves*.

*Adiantum philippense* needs the protection of a heated glasshouse in Southern Australia, and responds well to an open mostly organic soil mix with good drainage. It does extra well in a hanging basket in a humid position in the glasshouse.

Drawing by Barry Stagoll

Information by Chris Goudey



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# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The President and Committee Members of the Fern Society of Victoria would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their support throughout 2007. We look forward to serving the members with a bigger and brighter 2008.

We wish all our members and their families a happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year, we look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year.





## STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

# Road Trauma *Support Team* VICTORIA

### INDULGE IN THE PLEASURES OF THE ROSE

Road Trauma Support Team will be hosting their 12th annual fundraising event on the weekend of the 17th and 18th November 2007.

The Open Rose Weekend, now in its 12th year, is made possible by the Nieuwesteeg family opening their rose nursery display garden to the public. The nursery is located in Coldstream and open to the public for this event only.

**This romantic garden captures the hearts of all who visit**

Wander along the extensive paths surrounded by sights and smells of thousands of blooms.

As well as old world rose varieties this garden holds the Alister Clark (Australia) collection, under the auspices of the Ornamental Plant Conservation Association of Australia (OPCAA). A selection of David Austin and Hybrid Tea roses are available for purchase as well as an array of perennials that complement roses.

The Nieuwesteeg Rose Nursery is located at 4 Tarrawarra Road, Coldstream (Me] 276 B6). The nursery is 12 kilometres north of Lilydale, off the Maroondah Highway. The Open Rose Weekend will be held between 9:00am and 4:00pm both days. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for pensioners and \$2 for children.

Roses, seedlings and clematis plants are available to purchase, along with Devonshire Teas, local Yarra Valley produce, BBQ, and raffle tickets.

Profits raised at the Open Rose Weekend go towards funding the continuing work of the Road Trauma Support Team Victoria who provide free professional counselling, volunteer peer support, education and support groups to people affected by road trauma.

Please find attached a flyer advertising the Open Rose Weekend. For further information please contact Jan at the Road Trauma Support Team on 9877 7922 or email [info\(a\)rtstv.org.au](mailto:info(a)rtstv.org.au)



**NEWSLETTER**

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

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