

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
NEWSLETTER

Volume 33, Number 1
January/February 2011



Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 85 086 216 704

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web: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fernsvic/>

Objectives of the Fern Society of Victoria

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

To promote the conservation of ferns and their habitats

Office bearers

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Committee members	Mirini Lang 9886 6109, Gay Stagoll 9844 1558, Brenda Girdlestone 9390 7073, Warren Simpson 0419 594 524,		

Subscriptions

Single	\$17.00
Pensioner/student	\$14.00
Family	\$19.00
Pensioner family	\$16.00
Overseas	\$25.00 (overseas subscription

payments by international bank cheque in \$Aus, by airmail please)

Subscriptions fall due on 1 July each year

Meeting venues

The Kevin Heinze Garden Centre, 39 Wetherby Road, Doncaster [Melway 47 H1]

Other meetings as advertised in this Newsletter

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 Workshops and demonstrations

10:00 Close

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 endorsement.

Next Meeting

Thursday 17 February 2011, 7:30 pm

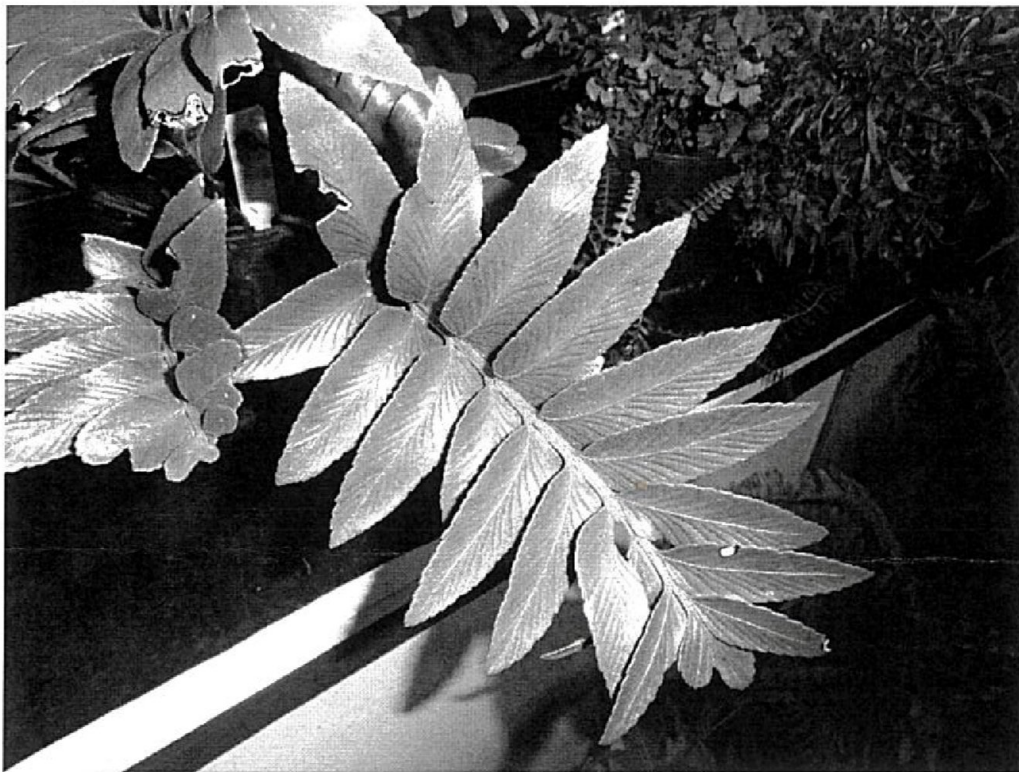
Kevin Heinz Centre

Chris Goudey

Ferns of Lord Howe Island

Fern competition: Lord Howe Island fern

See page 14 for details of further activities planned in the first months of 2011.



Above: *Asplenium obtusatum*, from Fern Society of Victoria meeting display and competition, November 2010. Photo: Barry White.

Cover image: *Cyathea robertsiana* unfolding crozier. Photo: Rod Hill.

President's Note

I trust that, like at our place, your ferns are showing the benefits of the much more adequate natural watering, by comparison with a fairly long run of mostly dry weather in previous years, that has been the result of the La Nina weather phase we've been experiencing (the floods have brought to mind the old saying of: "it never rains but it pours", and we hope that none of our readers has experienced the full measure of these).

We look forward to getting into the "bush" as 2011 unfolds and seeing the benefits of the 2010 rains on natural forest and fern areas.

Our last FSV activity for 2010, the Christmas lunch at Kevin Heinze Centre was most enjoyable, as usual, although attendance was somewhat lower than normal. Our 'blind auction' saw plenty of spirited bidding, and satisfied bidders, as well as raising funds for the KHC (haven't heard a figure from the Treasurer as yet). As for the contributions to the many and varied items offered for auction, thanks to all the participants. And a special thankyou is due to Reg Orr, who once again contributed some of his beautifully hand-crafted wooden boxes to the auction although he and Betty were away from Melbourne and therefore unable to attend the lunch personally.

It was a pleasure to hear that Mary and Reg Kenealy were able to move into their new Marysville home in late 2010. Whilst in "temporary quarters" in Melbourne (during which time they'd been with us at some FSV meetings)

they not only planned their return to Marysville and the establishment of the new house, but also organised a highly successful campaign to collect as much memorabilia of Marysville as possible with which to re-establish the Marysville Historical Society museum on a new site. The new home for the museum was found, and it's due to be reopened in February.

Perhaps Victorian-based members noticed the well-deserved tribute to Mary and Reg in The Age published on December 30, 2010: Couple home at last after long stay on the fringe, by Monique Freer, replete with a nice photo of them both in front of the new house, and the garden already partly planted. Also a shot of Mary at the burnt-out site of the original Marysville Historical Society museum shortly after Black Saturday in February 2009.

We're very proud of Mary and Reg, as we know Marysville people are also, and congratulate them again on their spirit and their achievements in the aftermath of the fearsome Black Saturday fires.

As usual, we haven't rushed to get out the first edition of the FSV Newsletter for 2011, as our first activity for the year takes place in February. We look forward to seeing members there, and at other activities during 2011.

Barry Stagoll

Editor's Note

Special thanks are due to two members who have contributed to this issue. Firstly thanks to Bernadette Thompson for managing and summarising the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2010, held over for this issue since we ran out of space in the last issue of 2010. Annual auditing of the accounts is a vital thing for any

society, and on behalf of the members, the committee thanks Bernadette sincerely for her efforts. (And I apologise in advance for the ragged columns and messing a little with the page breaks - neater formatting defeated me.)

Secondly, thanks very much to Kathryn Goodall who responded to my plea for articles with her wonderful contribution *Surviving the Summer Heat*. Given the floods in Queensland and Victoria since the article was written, Kathryn,

from Wodonga, must be wondering at the irony of her chosen topic, But by the time this issue is in your hands I am sure members in the southern States will be experiencing temperatures in the 30s and 40s again, so the subject is pertinent.

I am only just back from holidays in the Otways (we had 120 mm of rain one night, which was pretty exciting in such short steep catchments) so I do not yet know how Kathryn and her husband have fared during the floods. From this distance it seems they might not have been so severely

affected as those further down the Murray. At least I hope so. Of course our thoughts are with all those whose lives and homes have felt the impact of the floods.

Finally, please check that you have renewed your membership and make the job of your Treasurer, Don Fuller, as easy as possible. See the notice on page 12.

Robin Wilson



Victorian ferns, as exhibited by FSV members at the November 2010 meeting. Photo: Barry White.

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Surviving the Summer Heat

Kathryn Goodall

As my husband and I live in Wodonga with long hot summers and temperatures above 40°C on many days in January-February, we have had to manage our fernery to suit the heat. With water restrictions being introduced a few years ago we realised we had to improve the conditions in our fernery to help our precious ferns we love so much. With failing health I was losing them gradually, due to neglect, not just water, so we devised a plan. We cut our fernery back to 93 square metres in size, from 185 square metres .

We laid newspaper, weed mat that could breath, as black plastic makes the soil go sour. Then we placed red gum chips 2 inches thick. Plants we

had dug out we replanted with hydrocel (a form of foam that you add water to, available from some nurseries) which was placed into the bottom of the prepared hole, then the fern planted onto this, along with compost also in the hole to give it a boost. Then made a mix of 10 ml each of Seasol & power feed in a bucket to water the plants in well. We moved a very large *Todea barbara* using this method above, and it didn't have a set back. We put this down to the Hydrocel. (continued next page)

Below: *Paesia scaberula* from Kathryn Goodall's garden. Photo: Kathryn Goodall.



Surviving the Summer Heat (continued)

As for our hanging baskets I bought Yates Tuscan water well pots and made a mixture of:

- 1 part cow manure
- 5 parts potting mix (cheap brand)
- 5 parts compost
- 2 parts pine bark or red gumchips
- water wetting granules
- slow release fertilizer

charcoal if you can get your hands on some from a fire or ask your neighbours for some if they have a wood fire.

Mix all this together.

Do plant the fern in the normal way as with any other plant you have, pot up then place bark on top of the mix to keep the moisture in. After potting the fern, I then place some more fertiliser

and wetting agent on top again, then equal parts (10 ml) Power feed & Seasol in a 9 litre bucket.

The ferns have doubled in size in a very short time, and will need dividing again soon. I use this mixture Power feed & Seasol every 3 weeks and found they are jumping out of the pots, though this means more work. I look forward to this as my health has improved and our fernery is giving us much pleasure again. The mix is fairly open and in these pots I place all types of ferns such as Davallias, *Polypodium*, *Pyrosia*, maidenhair *Aglaomorpha*, *Nephrolepis*, *Paesia* (ring fern), *Dictymia brownii*, *Blechnum simplicifrons* [perhaps this should be *Asplenium simplicifrons*? Ed.], also *Asplenium polyodon* (mares tale) though this is placed on the ground for lower humidity and a bit more sun protection.

With the tree fern pots I have placed saucers underneath to retain the moisture over summer as they tend to dry out too quickly (the potting medium is as mentioned earlier). A *Paesia* (ring fern) nearly died 15 (continued next page)

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Surviving the Summer Heat (continued)

months ago, so I did a new soil change, pulled out all the creeping clover leaf weeds that were choking the plant and now it's looking a magnificent specimen. After placing the bark on top of the hanging baskets, I noticed lots of different spore coming up in the pots; they seem to like the roughness of the bark and the moisture it holds, more resembling nature I think.

I missed not being able to look after the ferns for many years, but now are getting all the attention they need, hooray for that! We installed a 1,000 litre water feature with many gold fish, I sit out there often and enjoy listening to the gentle sound of the water and being mesmerised by the antics of the fish (yes they do have personalities), and the calmness of the environment, if the neighbours aren't mowing their lawns of course. In the background the turtledoves, top knot pigeons, fics, willy wagtails, rosellas, kookaburras sing away and pop in to see what there is for lunch that we have put out for them, and to have their daily bath. They give so much happiness to us both. It's these little things in life that matter, and a lot of people don't take the time to notice. It really is a shame. In a large *Platycerium superbum* we have a



Nephrolepis cordifolia cv. *plumosa* from Kathryn Goodall's garden. Photo: Kathryn Goodall.

little starling nesting (I've named her Rosy), her first clutch had 3 babies, and Rosy is now sitting on 4 more eggs, a great year for all the birds. I take a walk in our fernery every day and always find a weed to pull out.

There is always something to do in our tropical land of paradise in summer. At present we have a pesky white crane visiting every day, trying to get our much loved gold fish, (someone has to love them) out of the ponds. We've placed wire and bird netting over the pond and are winning the battle at last. This winter Albury/Wodonga has had a huge amount of rain and has come out of a ten year drought at last, the garden has enjoyed it all, especially the ferns, their lapping it all up, the growth is amazing on all the ferns, I think I hear them saying thankyou for all this fresh water, that is not out of the tap with all those chemicals in it. Happy gardening

Kathryn Goodall

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The Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June 2010

SUMMARY

2009		2010
\$		\$
3,614.37	Income – General Account	3,296.27
2,872.36	less -- Expenditure	2,785.80
742.01	Operating Surplus	510.47
BALANCE SHEET		
MEMBERS FUNDS		
20,061.71	Brought forward from previous balance	20,803.72
742.01	Surplus / Deficit from General Account	510.47
20,803.72		21,314.19
REPRESENTED BY CURRENT ASSETS		
	Cash at Bank	
2,193.49	General Account	2,333.82
	Stock	
55.60	Mugs	55.60
	Investments	
18,764.63	Term Deposits	19,185.77
21,013.72	TOTAL ASSETS	21,575.19
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
210.00	Pre-paid memberships	81.00
	Unpresented cheques	180.00
20,803.72		21,314.19
GENERAL ACCOUNT		
INCOME		

(continued next page)

FSV Inc. Accounts 2009-2010 (continued)

	SUBSCRIPTIONS		
1,379.00	Renewals	1,195.00	
25.00	New Members	78.00	
232.00	Pre – paid past	160.00	
164.00	less pre – paid future	-31.00	
1,472.00			1,402.00
	SALES & COMMISSIONS		
30.00	Spore Bank	54.50	
--	Fern Sales Night & Open Garden	190.27	
60.80	Miscellaneous sales to members		96.00
30.00	Sale of videos / DVDs	30.00	
234.00	Sale of W. Edward's ferns	--	
--	Sale of J. Boucher's ferns	277.40	
--	Sale of Library book	15.00	
354.80			663.17
	SPECIAL EFFORT		
247.10	General	234.50	
	OTHER INCOMES		
144.00	Advertising	144.00	
164.00	Christmas Auction	201.00	
3.00	Donation	12.00	
35.00	Christmas meal guest	10.00	
346.00			367.00
2,419.90	TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	2,666.67	
	NON OPERATING INCOME		
.25	Bank interest - General Account		.23
	Interest from Term Deposit Transferred		

(continued next page)

FSV Inc. Accounts 2009-2010 (continued)

683.59	to General Account	208.23
	Interest from Investment Account	
510.63	reinvested	421.14
1,194.47		
629.60		
3,614.37	TOTAL INCOME	3,296.27
	GENERAL ACCOUNT	
2009	EXPENDITURE	2010
	NEWSLETTERS	
1,098.85	Printing	966.57
421.03	Postage	377.63
1,519.88		1,344.20
	ADMINISTRATION	
59.70	Registrations / Subscriptions	65.90
70.69	Administration / Secretary	49.68
267.59	Supper / Meals	144.71
370.00	Rent K.Heinze Venue	355.00
75.00	Post Office Box rental	79.50
82.00	Donation to KH Centre	100.00
	(1/2 Christmas auction)	
240.00	Purchase of W.Edwards's Ferns	--
--	Expenses re J.Boucher's Ferns	10.00
--	Special donation to KH centre	135.00
	(Sale of J.Boucher's Ferns)	
187.50	Insurance	257.60
--	Cranbourne Excursion	37.55
--	Purchase of misc. goods for Members	206.66
1,352.48		1,441.60
2,872.36	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,785.80

URGENT REMINDER — MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

There are still a number of members who are yet to renew their FSV membership for 2010/11. This fell due on 1 July 2010. If, as at 1 January 2011, you are one of these there will be a RED DOT ON THE ADDRESS PANEL of your January/February newsletter. Prompt renewal of your membership will be appreciated.

If you have any query contact Don Fuller on (03) 9306 5570. We would also appreciate hearing from you if you do not intend to renew your membership.



Above: *Microsorium pustulatum*, from Fern Society of Victoria meeting display and competition, November 2010. Photo: Barry White.

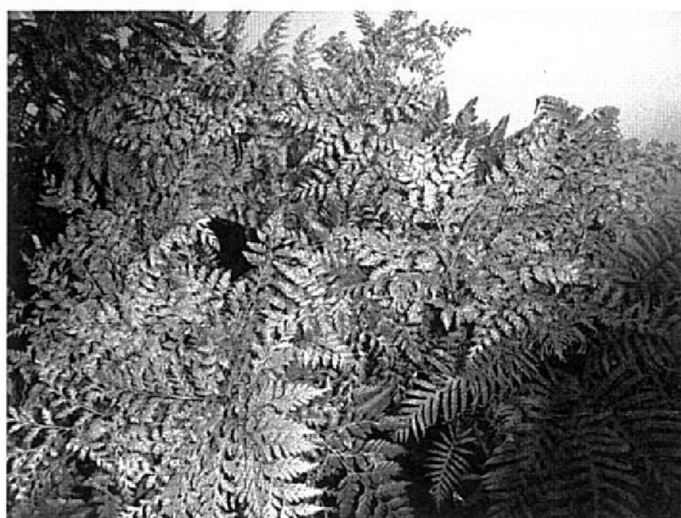


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Above: *Adiantum aethiopicum* 'Frostii', from Fern Society of Victoria meeting display and competition, November 2010. Photo: Barry White.



Above: *Davallia pyxidata*, from Fern Society of Victoria meeting display and competition, November 2010. Photo: Barry White.

Calendar of activities — Fern Society of Victoria

February - May 2011

7:30 pm, Thursday 17 February 2011

Kevin Heinz Centre

Chris Goudey: Ferns of Lord Howe Island

fern competition: Lord Howe Island fern.

7:30 m, Thursday 17 March 2011

Kevin Heinz Centre

Barry White: Fern Allies

fern competition: Fern allies

Sunday 17 April 2011

Excursion: Botanic Gardens and Esso Building

Details to be advised in the next issue

7:30 pm, Thursday 19 May 2011

Kevin Heinz Centre

Forum 'Growing fabulous ferns'

fern competition: fabulous fern

Details of events for June and beyond will be provided in coming issues.

Fern Society of Victoria Spore Bank

Fern spore is free to members of the Fern Society of Victoria who donate spore. Otherwise the cost is members 20 cents per sample, non-members 50 cents, plus \$1.00 to cover postage and handling. Available at meetings or by mail from Barry White, 34 Noble Way, Sunbury, Vic. 3429 Australia, Ph. (03) 9740 2724. There is no charge for spore for overseas members, however to cover postage two International Reply Coupons would be appreciated; or alternatively spore may be exchanged. International Reply Coupons can be purchased at most Post Offices. Overseas non-members may purchase spore at three packets for each International Reply Coupon, plus two coupons per order to cover postage and handling. There is a limit of 20 packets per order. Some spores are in short supply please include alternatives. Queries can be emailed to: Barry White barry_white1@msn.com.au. The following list is current as of January 2011.

<i>Acrostichum speciosum</i> 4/09	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> 1/09	<i>Microsorium punctatum</i> 1/09
<i>Aleuritopteris kuhnii</i> 6/10	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> 'Brentwood'	<i>Ophioglossum pendulum</i> 7/08
<i>Amphineuron opulentum</i> 4/10	3/08	<i>Pellaea cordata</i> 7/09
<i>Anemia phyllitides</i> 6/09	<i>Cyathea felina</i> 10/08	<i>Pellaea falcata</i> 1/11
<i>Anemia tomentosa</i> 8/08	<i>Cyathea howeana</i> 10/10	<i>Pellaea hastata</i> 5/10
<i>Angiopteris evecta</i> 11/09	<i>Cyathea macarthuri</i> 10/10	<i>Pellaea viridis</i> 1/08
<i>Arachniodes simplicior</i> 1/09	<i>Cyathea medullaris</i> 11/08	<i>Platynerium superbum</i> 4/08
<i>Arachniodes aristata</i> 11/10	<i>Cyathea robusta</i> 9/10	<i>Pleioneuron tuberculatus</i> 12/08
<i>Arachniodes mutica</i> 10/08	<i>Cyathea rebecca</i> (crested) 9/10	<i>Pneumatopteris sogerensis</i> 12/08
<i>Arachniodes standishii</i> 6/10	<i>Cyrtomium caryotideum</i> 8/10	<i>Pneumatopteris costata</i> 12/08
<i>Asplenium milnei</i> 10/10	<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i> 7/09
<i>Asplenium nidus</i> 5/08	'Butterfieldii' 3/08	<i>Polystichum australiense</i> 5/10
<i>Asplenium nidus</i> cv.5/08	<i>Cyrtomium fortunei</i> 6/10	<i>Polystichum formosum</i> 6/09
<i>Asplenium pellucidum</i> 12/10	<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i> 12/10	<i>Polystichum proliferum</i> 12/10
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> (red stipe)	<i>Diplazium australe</i> 5/10	<i>Polystichum retroso-paleacum</i>
12/10	<i>Diplazium assimile</i> 6/09	10/10
<i>Athyrium niponicum</i> 'Pictum'	<i>Diplazium dilatatum</i> 12/10	<i>Polystichum whiteleggei</i> 10/10
5/10	<i>Doodia australis</i> 6/10	<i>Polystichum xiphophyllum</i> 3/08
<i>Athyrium otophorum</i> 12/10	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> 'Cristata' /08	<i>Pteris aspericaulis</i> 8/10
<i>Blechnum ambiguum</i> 1/08	<i>Dryopteris dilata</i> "Crispa	<i>Pteris dentata</i> 12/10
<i>Blechnum braziliense</i> 5/10	Whiteside" 11/10	<i>Pteris hendersonii</i> 12/10
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i> 9/10	<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i> 10/10	<i>Pteris pacifica</i> 6/10
<i>Blechnum spicant</i> 12/10	<i>Dryopteris guanchica</i> 12/10	<i>Pteris tremula</i> 11/10
<i>Blechnum sp.</i> (New Caledonia)	<i>Dryopteris sparsa</i> 8/10	<i>Pteris umbrosa</i> 6/10
6/10	<i>Dryopteris wallichiana</i> 1/09	<i>Revwattsii fragile</i> 12/10
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i> 9/10	<i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i> 12/08	<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i> (Cape
<i>Blechnum wattsii</i> 12/08	<i>Lastreopsis acuminata</i> 12/10	form) 2/08
<i>Chingia australis</i> 6/10	<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i> 6/09	<i>Sphaerostephanos heterocarpus</i>
<i>Christella hispidula</i> /09	<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i> 6/10	7/08
<i>Christella subpubescens</i> 12/08	<i>Lastreopsis nephrodioides</i> 10/10	<i>Thelypteris patens</i> 9/09
<i>Cyathea australis</i> 9/10	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i> 2/10	
<i>Cyathea baileyana</i> 12/08	<i>Macrothelypteris torresiana</i> 6/10	

Thank you to the spore donors who are listed on the web page at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fernsvic/Sporlist.html> (updates to the spore list can also be found at that page).

NEWSLETTER
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