FERN SOCIET

Volume 33, Number 2 March/April 2011



NEWSLETTER
If undeliverable return to:
Fern Society of Victoria Inc.
PO Box 45, Heidelberg
West, Victoria 3081,
Australia

ABN 85 086 216 704 print post approved PP334633/0002 SURFACE MAIL

Postage Paid West Heidelberg Victoria 3081 Australia

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Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

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email: barry_white1@msn.com.au

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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and are not orsed by the personal views ssed in this mention of a endorsement.

Subscriptions fall due on 1 July each year

airmail please)

Meeting venues

Other meetings as advertised in this Newsletter The Kevin Heinze Garden Centre, 39 Wetherby Road, Doncaster [Melway 47 H1]

Timetable for evening general meetings

effort tickets. Also library loans and lots of conversation. 7:30 Pre-meeting activities - sale of ferns, spore, books, merchandise and special

8:00 General meeting

8:15 Workshops and demonstrations

9:15 Fern identification and pathology, special effort draw

Workshops and demonstrations

10:00 Close

Fern Society of Victoria Spore Bank

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) following list is current as of January 2011. please include alternatives. Queries can be emailed to: Barry White barry white1@msn.com.au. The cover postage and handling. There is a limit of 20 packets per order. Some spores are in short supply purchase spore at three packets for each International Reply Coupon, plus two coupons per order to International Reply Coupons can be purchased at most Post Offices. Overseas non-members may International Reply Coupons would be appreciated; or alternatively spore may be exchanged. 9740 2724. There is no charge for spore for overseas members, however to cover postage two Fern spore is free to members of the Fern Society of Victoria who donate spore. Otherwise the cost is

Acrostichum speciosum 4/09
Aleuritopteris kuhnii 6/10
Amphineuron opulentum 4/10
Anemia phyllitides 6/09
Anemia tomentosa 8/08
Angiopteris evecta 11/09
Arachniodes simplicior 1/09
Arachniodes aristata 11/10
Arachniodes standishii 6/10
Asplenium milnei 10/10
Asplenium nidus 5/08
Asplenium nidus cv.5/08
Asplenium pellucidum 12/10
Athyrium filix-femina (red stipe) 12/10
Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum'

Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum' 5/10

Athyrium otophorum 12/10
Blechnum ambiguum 1/08
Blechnum braziliense 5/10
Blechnum chambersii 9/10
Blechnum spicant 12/10
Blechnum sp. (New Caledonia)

Blechnum patersonii 9/10
Blechnum wattsii 12/08
Chingia australis 6/10
Christella hispidula /09
Christella subpubescens 12/08
Cyathea australis 9/10

Cyathea baileyana 12/08

Macrothelypteris torresiana 6/10 Hypolepis glandulifera 12/08 Dryopteris sparsa 8/10 Lygodium japonicum 2/10 Lastreopsis nephrodioides 10/10 Lastreopsis decomposita 6/09 Lastreopsis acuminata 12/10 Dryopteris wallichiana 1/09 Dryopteris guanchica 12/10 Dryopteris erythrosora 10/10 Whiteside" 11/10 Dryopteris dilata "Crispa Dryopteris affinis 'Cristata' /08 Doodia australis 6/10 Diplazium dilatatum 12/10 Diplazium assimile 6/09 Diplazium australe 5/10 Dicksonia antarctica 12/10 Cyrtomium fortunei 6/10 Cyrtomium falcatum Cyathea rebeccae (crested) 9/10 Cyathea cooperi 'Brentwood' Cyathea cooperi 1/09 Lastreopsis microsora 6/10 'Butterfieldii' 3/08 Cyrtomium caryotideum 8/10 Cyathea robusta9/10 Cyathea medullaris 11/08 Cyathea macarthuri 10/10 Cyathea howeana 10/10 Cyathea felina 10/08

form) 2/08 Rumohra adiantiformis(Cape Pteris aspericaulis 8/10 Sphaerostephanos heterocarpus Revwattsii fragile 12/10 Polystichum xiphophyllum 3/08 Polystichum proliferum 12/10 Polystichum australiense 5/10 Platycerium superbum 4/08 Microsorum punctatum 1/09 Thelypteris patens 9/09 Pteris umbrosa 6/10 Pteris tremula 11/10 Pteris pacifica 6/10 Pteris hendersonii 12/10 Pteris dentata 12/10 Polystichum whiteleggei 10/10 10/10 Polystichum retroso-paleacum Polystichum formosum 6/09 Polystichum aculeatum 7/09 Pneumatopteris costata 12/08 Pneumatopteris sogerensis 12/08 Pleisioneuron tuberculatus 12/08 Pellaea viridis 1/08 Pellaea hastata 5/10 Pellaea falcata 1/11 Pellaea cordata 7/09 Ophioglossum pendulum 7/08

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

Next Meetings Thursday 17 March 2011, 7:30 pm

Kevin Heinz Centre

Barry White

Fern Allies

Fern competition: Fern Allies

Thursday 14 April 2011

10:30 am - Visit to Esso Australia Building

2:00 pm - Visit to Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

For those visiting Esso (Confirmed bookings essential - please phone or email either the President Street Station - there is a passenger exit from the Station directly to the bridge, accessible by taking the platform exits at the west (Elizabeth Street) end. We will need to collect security name-tags at enter the or Secretary) 10.30am Meet at the riverside frontage of the Esso Australia building, Southbank (right opposite the south end of the Yarra footbridge which crosses from the riverside path next to Flinders building at 11.00am (using the entrance from Riverside Quay on the opposite side of the building) We expect to spend around 30 minutes in the Atrium/foyer. We are requested to restrict any photographs to the plantings and landscaping (Esso is concerned to ensure no photos include infrastructure, etc., for security reasons, understandably).

lunch elsewhere as preferred. The tram in St. Kilda Road is the best way to travel there, unless the walk there (there's a café at the Garden's main entrance). There will be free time in the Gardens, or to take After the Esso visit For those going on to the RBG, we'd suggest they might like to consider lunch is preferred.

Herbarium (just inside the main Gardens down the path from the main entrance building - there are maps The RBG visit (all members welcome without booking) 2.00pm Meet at the area just at the rear of the access and questions during our walk. Of course, you may stay in the Gardens until closing time, but we displayed throughout the Gardens. We hope that an RBG staff member will be available to assist with expect that the duration of our group visit might be around 2 hours.

If you need to contact us for directions, etc. on the day, call Barry Stagoll on 0411 525 890

Cover image: Doodia caudata, also photographed at the Australian National Botanic Garden. Photo:

Calendar of activities — Fern Society of Victoria

7:30 pm, Thursday 17 March 2011

Kevin Heinz Centre

Barry White: Fern Allies

fern competition: Fern allies

10:30 am, Thursday 14 April 2011

Excursion: Botanic Gardens and Esso Building

Details page 3

7:30 pm, Thursday 19 May 2011

Kevin Heinz Centre

Forum 'Growing fabulous ferns'

fern competition: fabulous fern

7:30 pm, Thursday 16 June 2011

Kevin Heinz Centre

Ken Harris: Madagascar

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

President's Note

Well, the summer we hardly had at all is officially over and we're into autumn – to my mind often the best of the seasons in the Melbourne region, and something we really look forward to when we've been going through a more typical summer.

of season blooms. And the extent of the growth nuisance of the well-watered weeds to deal with! scarcity continued. Of course, there's still the wouldn't risk it while the dry weather and water we'd planned to get into the garden long ago, but the stocks in our shadehouse of potted plants that climate period hangs on. We hope at last to reduce that they'll get a good start whilst the wetter the open ground during the drought, optimistic include replanting fern species which gave up in accelerate our planting work now, which will commenced has been amazing. We plan to made by most plants since spring 2010 and many spring-flowering plants producing outdeciduous trees putting on a new flush of leaves, something of a "seasonal time-warp", with Actually at our place right now we seem to be in

Chris Goudey presented a most interesting and informative look-back at visits to Lord Howe Island, and we viewed numbers of the very fine

ferns found there, at our February meeting. For those who couldn't make it to the meeting, there's coverage in this issue. Thanks Chris.

At out meeting this month Barry White will talk about Fern Allies. A good opportunity to learn more about this rather unusual group of plants.

numbers. See details in the Calendar of Activities to book your place in view of the restriction on like to join the Esso visit, you'll have to be quick there for the afternoon of the same day, instead of to the Royal Botanic Gardens to view the ferns persons) to do so on a weekday (the morning of we have permission for a small group (15 weekend would not be convenient for them. So plantings in the building's atrium/foyer that a their Melbourne head office to view the fern possibility that we might be able to gain entry to approaching Esso Australia regarding the weekend, but were not surprised to find, on for April (in place of the usual meeting) on a restriction on numbers, so all are welcome there (last page). The RBG visit will not have any the date advertised in the last Newsletter. If you'd Thursday 14 April) and have scheduled our visit We were intending to hold the excursion planned

Barry Stagoll

Editor's Note

Lord Howe Island is the theme of this issue, with two fascinating articles on the ferns and environs of the Island. I also have two more articles on Lord Howe that I have had to hold over for the next issue: one I wrote myself on the geological history of the Island, while the other is a guide to the ferns of Lord Howe Island by Barry White. Thanks to Barry, I have a number of photographs of Lord Howe ferns to illustrate his article, but it would be nice to have a few more species, so if anyone has photographs of Lord Howe ferns that they would like to share, please email or post them to me (details on the inside ffront cover, or else pass them on to a committee member at the March or April meetings).

information on the following page on the new fern book by Ian Hutton on the Lord Howe fern flora. If it is anything like Ian Hutton's previous writing, any enthusiast of ferns or of Lord Howe Island will likely want to have access to a copy. We have not had time to discover how much the book costs, but if that information comes to hand in time I will include that in the next issue as well. Hopefully we can also organise to buy a copy for the FSV library.

I also have a nice article from Doug Western that will have to go into the next issue - thanks Doug and sorry to delay publication slightly. Best wishes to all and please keep the content coming for future issues.

Robin Wilson

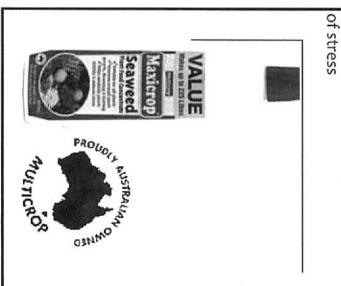
It was Barry White who also provided the

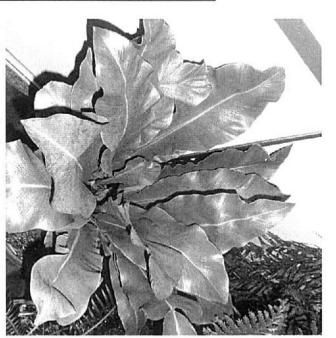
Fern Society of Victoria Newsletter Volume 33 number 2, page 4



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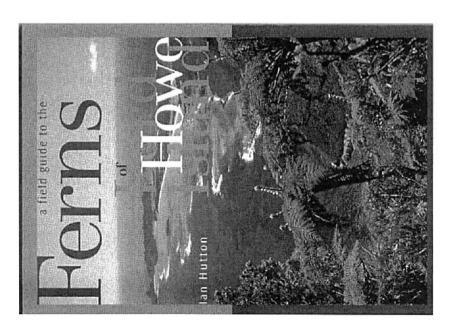
Asplenium goudeyi grown by Don Fuller and exhibited at the February 2011 meeting of the FSV. Photo: Barry White.

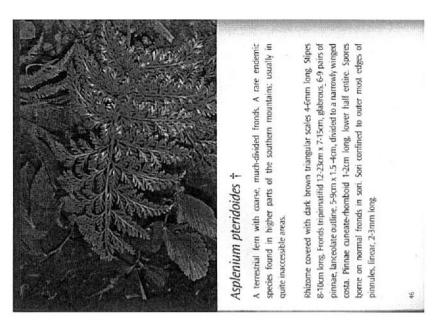


Platycerium bifurcatum growing on Lord Howe Island. Photo: Barry White.

New Lord Howe Island Fern Book

photograph and description of all the ferns of the Island. Anyone visiting the Island will find the book "A field Guide to the Ferns of Lord Howe Island" has just been published. It is a small but good book very handy. It is presumably available from shops on the Island or direct from the author at P.O. Box measuring about 10cm by 15 cm with 64 pages. Written and published by Ian Hutton it has a colour 157, Lord Howe Island, NSW, 2898.





Cover and a sample page from 'A field Guide to the Ferns of Lord Howe Island' by Ian Hutton.

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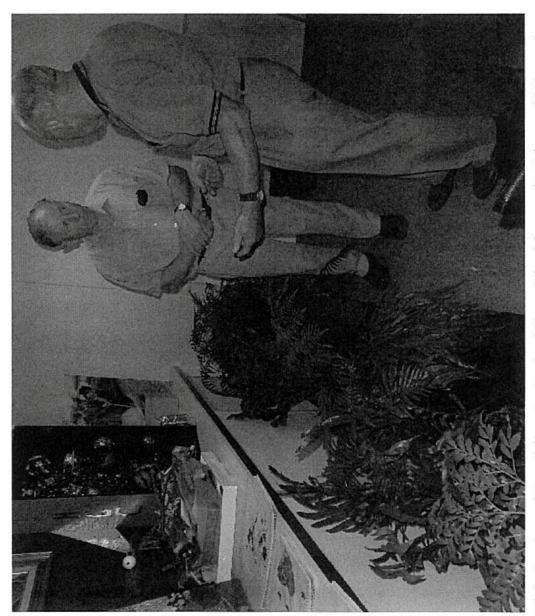
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Fern Society of Victoria Newsletter Volume 33 number 2, page 5

Competition results from the February meeting.

Don Fuller scooped the pool (as did the genus Asplenium):

- 1. Asplenium polyodon
- 2. Asplenium goudeyi
- 3. Asplenium surrogatum



Chris Goudey and Don Fuller viewing Lord Howe Island ferns at the February 2011 meeting of the FSV.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAI URGENT REMINDER

ON THE ADDRESS PANEL of your January/February newsletter. If you have not already renewed your membership, please do so now. If you have any query contact Don Fuller on (03) 9306 5570. We would 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 have been be a RED DOT also appreciate hearing from you if you do not intend to renew your membership.

Features of Lord Howe Island Barry White

Island" both by Ian Hutton Based on information from "Birds of Lord howe Island" and "Ferns of Lord Howe

Lord Howe is a small but exceptionally beautiful island in the Tasman Sea. Although it has been permanently inhabited since 1834, the total population is less than 300 residents. Owing to a fortuitous combination of factors, including rugged terrain, small population, and strict government control, the Island has been preserved in a remarkably natural state. Only about ten percent of the total area has been cleared for farming, grazing and housing, and the remainder is relatively undisturbed - much as it was before human discovery in 1788. Few inhabited islands in the world are so ecologically intact.

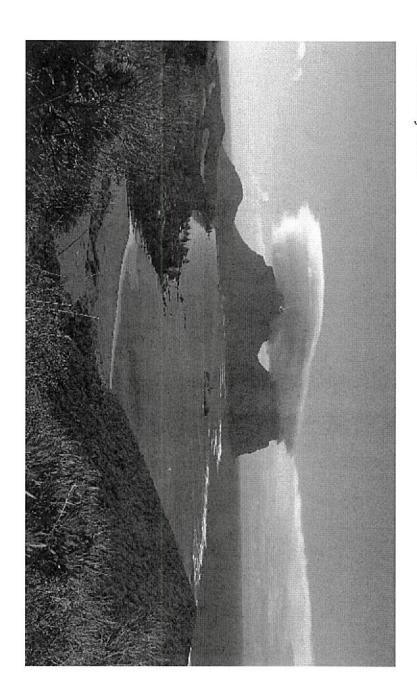
Geographically, Lord Howe is a small volcanic island in the Tasman Sea situated at latitude 3133 S and longitude 159 05 E. It is 570 km from the Australian mainland, 1350 km from New Zealand

and 1250 km from New Caledonia. Norfolk Island is 800km to the north-east. Being the Island's closest neighbours, these places share many of Lord Howe's plant and animal species - or else they possess closely related species.

The Island is about llkm long and up to 2.8 km wide, with a land area of 1455 hectares. Most of this is taken up by the two southern mountains - Lidgbird 777 metres and Gower 875 metres above sea level. The Island is roughly crescent shaped, with the western concave side being bordered by a coral reef 6 km long. The reef encloses a lagoon with water depths to about two metres. The main island is surrounded by a number of smaller islets and rocks, the most spectacular of which is Ball's Pyramid - an eroded stack, 550 metres in height and 23km to the south-east.

(continued next page)

Below: Clouds over Mts Lidgbird and Gower. Photo: Barry White.



Lord Howe Island Trip (continued)

also fine specimens of *Cyathea howeana* and *Cyathea brevipinna*, as well as *Blechnum fullagari* and *B. geniculatum*. But the most breath-taking of all the ferns was the *Leptopteris moorei*, with pinnules so thin they were virtually transparent. The most delicate and beautiful fern you can imagine! The way back down was much more difficult! Our aching legs, knees, ankles, thighs and other previously unidentified muscles paid testament to this fact over the next few days. However, the summit was absolutely worth the effort.

In our final few days we visited the Lord Howe Island Nursery, which ships millions of Kentia palms to Denmark each year and is the island's main industry other than tourism. We also made a couple of last visits just to make sure we had seen everything on offer. On Wednesday we made our voyage home tired but satisfied.



Above: Marratia howeana. Photo: Barry White



Above: Chris Goudey and others on the Lower Road, Lord Howe Island. Photo: Barry White.

Features of Lord Howe Island (continued)

outstanding qualities, it was listed on the Register land and seabirds. In acknowledgement of these of the National Estate in March 1978 and on the and endemic plants, and a diverse population of the world's most southerly coral reef, many rare The Island boasts an unusual volcanic geology, The unique natural heritage of Lord Howe has attracted generations of scientists and visitors. World Heritage List in December, 1982.

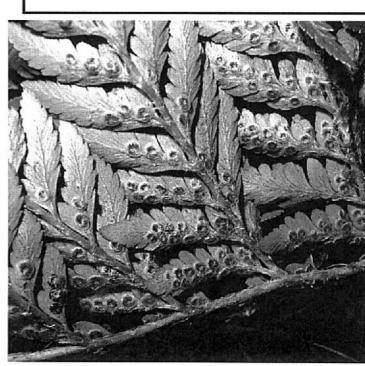
sight of the Island while on a voyage from Sydney voyage, a party was landed and the Island claimed sighting on 17 February 1788, less than a month after the first permanent European settlement at establish a second convict colony. On the return Sydney Cove. The ship Supply commanded by Lord Howe Island has yielded no evidence of Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball, sailed within to Norfolk Island, where it was intended to visitation by man before the first recorded as a British possession.

visited by government ships on the Sydney to For the next forty-five years, the Island was

Norfolk Island run, and by whaling ships working foraging parties were sent ashore to collect water, ships. The local population grew gradually, and 1834 that the Island was permanently settled by three families, who lived by trading vegetables, fish, meat and some bird feathers with passing numbered 35 people in 1869, when an official the so called 'Middle Grounds' of the Pacific. food and firewood. However, it was not until These ships would anchor offshore, while count was taken.

1870s, the Island's economy became dependent on favoured indoor palm in the world nursery trade -Palm' (Howea fosteriana) soon became the most the sale of palm seed. The indigenous 'Kentia Island from the 1880s to the present day, with and has provided a significant income for the As the whaling industry declined in the late only a few periods of recession.

(continued next page) From the 1920s, a small tourist industry developed, based on the natural



Above: Polystichum whiteleggii. Photo: Barry

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Lord Howe Island Trip (continued)

macarthuri in the lower creek area, as well as some Arthropteris tenella a little further up. We also found Asplenium hybrids (A. milnei x A. surrogatum), although no A. surrogatum was in evidence. Dwayne became expert at spotting Diplazium melanochlamys. The search was abandoned due to bad weather, and only 200m from the top. However, Martin later did some more investigating, and located Marattia howeana (while Barry located some barbed wire and an electric fence). Soldiers Creek, Little

Manually of the state of the st

Island and Mt Lidgbird (again) were searched, revealing an interesting Microsorum pustulatum variant (Rick-goudeyi?) and Polystichum whiteleggei.

walk' or even a 'trek', the best description of our up the lower segment of the climb, aided by thick positions. While clambering up the mountain, we round trip). We found some Hypolepis elegans in 1000m high, it was the goal of the day (and to be plants, as both were happy in these very exposed Dendrobium rock orchids, which happened to be over the seaside rocks, we then pulled ourselves basalt rock face towards the ocean. This species our first sighting of Blechnum howeanum. Then ropes and safety helmets. To our surprise, there excursion was a 'climb'. After first clambering a colony, and spotted some Lycopodiaceae and honest, the trip). We started out at 7am, keenly awaiting the arrival of the taxi to take us to the and Asplenium milnei are obviously very hardy were huge colonies of Platycerium bifurcatum creek for a drink/rest, and were rewarded with goudeyi, which is a very tough plant, and was On Monday, Mount Gower loomed. At nearly flowering at the time. We stopped at Erskines plants. We also came across many Asplenium easily found ensconced in the crevices of the upwards we climbed (a total of 14km for the along the rock face, numbering thousands of base of the mountain. Whilst advertised as a including Polystichum whiteleggei, Cyathea Grammitis species, although these were not robusta, Cyathea macarthuri, Arthropteris came across many attractive fern species, tenella, as well as some very attractive formally identified.

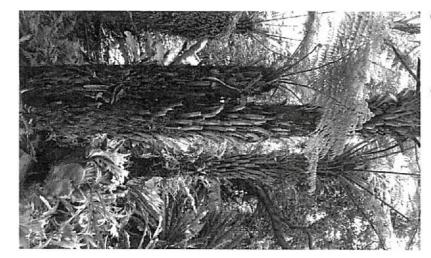
The top of the mountain was what we were all clamouring for, and it did not disappoint! We were lucky to see it on a clear day, as it is covered in mist for up to 60% of the time - just like fern fairyland! The filmy ferns (Hymenophyllum species) were up to 20cm long, and the creeping (continued next page)

Features of Lord Howe Island (continued)

to fly to the Island for the first time. beneath Transit Hill, permitting land-based aircraft an airstrip was constructed in the central area Philp trading ships. After World War II a flyingbeauty of the Island, and its interesting flora and landing on the Island lagoon at high tide. In 1974 boat link was established with Sydney, the aircraft fauna. At first, tourists came on the regular Burns

provide access to almost every point of interest. visit this fascinating Island. Walking or cycling Sydney, Brisbane or Port Macquarie, anyone can Now, in less than two hours flying time from

with a single frond just a few centimetres long, to ranging from the tiny Ophioglossum lusitanicum, exhibit a fantastic variety of shapes and forms, having 57 species, of which 25 are endemic. They fronds up to 2m long. giant tree ferns with trunks 10m high and arching Lord Howe Island is well endowed with ferns



exclusively on open sunny rock ledges. shady conditions. Two species of Cheilanthes all ferns are found in such extreme damp and summit cloud forest or creek gullies. However.not and Hymenophyllum which grow only in the particularly the delicate filmy ferns Cephalomanes mountains, which are often capped in cloud, that ferns and Pyrrosia confluens grow almost restricted almost exclusively to these areas, is in the moist environments of the southern Ferns are found in most parts of the Island, but it ferns are most abundant. In fact some species are

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Gardens, Canberra. Photo: Robin Wilson. Cyathea australis at the Australian National Botanic

Lord Howe Island Trip Kylie Stocks

Reproduced with permission from the Pteridologist and the Fern Study Group

Participants: Martin Rickard (British Pteridological Society), Patrick Acock (BPS), Chris Goudey (Austral Ferns, Victoria), Steven Lamont (Fern Study Group, NSW), Barry White (Fern Study Group NSW, and Victorian Fern Society), Kylie and Dwayne Stocks (Fern Study Group, NSW)

On Thursday 14th October, led by Chris Goudey (after whom Asplenium goudeyi, the endemic Lord Howe Island bird's nest fern species is named), we met at Sydney airport. After a pleasant (if a little bumpy) flight to the island, we arrived at our accommodation, then set off. There were plenty of good examples of Asplenium australasicum, Asplenium milnei, Microsorum pustulatum, Nephrolepis biserrata, and Platycerium bifurcatum growing on roadsides and low growing trees. With no local predators, the endemic species can establish anywhere without fear of herbivory. However, we were after Asplenium goudeyi, so we set off for the Malabar.

The Malabar was a steep hill climb to the north of the island, overlooking the ocean (the island itself is only Il km long and 2.8 km wide). Whilst walking, we found colonies of *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Dendrobium* orchids, and more of the species previously mentioned. We also found plants of

afternoon swim. with hiking since 6 am, had decided to take an the fit and adventurous Barry who, not content and on the sea-facing rocks. We also encountered boughs and roots of the large Ficus macrophylla Platycerium bifurcatum among the twisted of Shadows, finding a small colony of found. In the afternoon we investigated the Valley some Psilotum nudum and Pteris microptera were goudeyi! However, a small Doodia caudata, and the target plants, nor any of the elusive A. immediately rewarded by the discovery of any of another feisty half-day climb, and was not atroviride colony overlooking the ocean. This was of the Malabar, and the location of a Adiantum Histiopteris incisa, more Asplenium milnei, and location. Mt Eliza was our next destination, west Asplenium goudeyi was not easily found in this Adiantum hispidulum and/or A. pubescens.

Saturday saw the arrival of a nasty storm, with hurricane strength winds and stinging rain.

Perfect weather for a leisurely climb of Mount Lidgbird! Determined to find as many endemic species as possible we set off for the Goat House walk. We found impressive specimens of Cyathea robusta, and (continued next page)

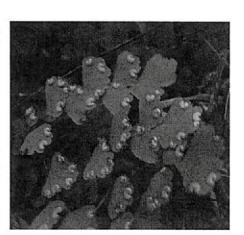
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Above: Adiantum atroviride. Photo: Barry White.