

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER

Volume 34, Number 6

November/December 2012



Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 85 086 216 704

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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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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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2012/13

Membership renewal for the year 2012/13 fell due on 1st July 2012. There are a small number of people yet to renew and prompt payment would be appreciated. If you are yet to renew your membership as at 31st October, there will be a small red dot on the address label of this newsletter. A form for the purpose of renewing your membership was included with the July/August newsletter.

There are a number of members who have prepaid their membership for 2012/13. If you are one of these there was a note indicating this included with the July/August newsletter.

Members may also renew their memberships online if they have a *Paypal* account; instructions are provided on the Society membership web page <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fernsvic/Member.html>

Cover image: *Doodia heterophylla*. Photo: Barry White.

Wanted: Bracken spores

Dr Andrea Kodym, a Research Fellow at the Burnley Campus of the University of Melbourne is doing work on difficult-to-propagate plants for revegetation purposes. Among the plants she is working on is *Pteridium esculentum* (Bracken).

Andrea states that bracken is highly desired for revegetation purposes e.g. by Melbourne Water, and she also has interest from people wanting to use it in roadside plantings. Andrea has been able to propagate bracken from spores in tissue culture but there is an issue of provenance origin. In



Bracken *Pteridium esculentum* underside of fertile frond. Photo: Barry White.

revegetation it is desirable to use plants of local origin and she would like to establish various provenances from around Victoria to meet the revegetation industry's requirement. She has spore from the Frankston and Bayswater area but is seeking help from members of the Fern Society in obtaining spore from other areas.

If anyone finds fertile bracken fronds, could they either collect the fronds or spores and send them to Andrea at the address below or get in touch with her so she can go and collect them herself. Last time she found spores was in November/December.

The help of members in this would be greatly appreciated. Andrea's address is below.

Barry White

Dr Andrea Kodym
Burnley Campus, University of Melbourne
500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond
VIC 3121 Phone 04 11157204 or 03 9035
6832 (lab)/-6864 (office)

President's Note

Our October visit to Mt. Dandenong was poorly attended (only five in all, although we did receive apologies from some members who had to withdraw). However, the gardens, and the ferns, were in fine condition.

Whilst at the National Rhododendron Gardens, we met with John O'Hara, President of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Rhododendron Society Inc., to inspect the progress with refurbishment of the Vireya House and to discuss the invitation to FSV to provide ferns for display in the company of Vireya rhododendrons. We contributed our thoughts on selecting and siting ferns and the details of the shading, humidifying and watering regime expected to be implemented when the works are completed. Both societies will progress their agreed roles in the project, and we look forward to achieving favourable reactions from NRG

visitors, and (with appropriate signage to assist) publicity for our Society.

I thought that I'd include a reminder this month that we'd very much like to hear from any members who may like to participate in a weekend visit to a nursery (say in the eastern suburbs) to assist customers with fern information (as well as putting in a plug for Fern Society membership if they may be interested). If so, please contact a Committee member to let us know.

Our 2012 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for this month. I hope that members have given consideration to proposing for Committee and advising Secretary Barry White accordingly. There's still time for those interested to do so.

Barry Stagoll

Editor's Note

Forces beyond my control have left me with precious little time to throw together this final newsletter for 2012. Fortunately plenty of material has been forthcoming to help me out. I do hope I haven't forgotten something that one of you have sent me, please forgive me if I have.

Robin Wilson

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Web: www.fernacres.com.au

Final Fern Society of Victoria meetings for 2012

7:30 pm Thursday 15 November 2012

Location: Kevin Heinze Centre, Doncaster (see inside cover for details)

Annual General Meeting and plant sale

together with slide show and talk from Warren Simpson: "A descent into ravine country, or Sliding the slippery slope"

From 12 midday, Sunday December 2

FSV Christmas gathering

Maranoa Gardens - Balwyn

Lunch (BYO) in Beckett Park - parking at north end of Parring Road (off Whitehorse Road, between Kireep Rd & Banool Rd., or in either of the latter and walk though to the picnic area.).

(Nice tidy park with Picnic tables available, but best bring some seating along)

Visit Maranoa Gardens during the afternoon: a long-established, very well-maintained, scenic garden of select Australian native plants including a good representation of ferns (gold coin donation requested at entry).

If members would care to bring along surplus plants, or other items, for the traditional "blind auction" we could hold this after lunch (proceeds to Kevin Heinz Centre).



Barry White, Gay Stagoll & Judy White at Ricketts' Sanctuary.
Photo: Barry Stagoll.

Our Visit with Meryl and Ian Broughton

Chris Goudey

In September Lorraine and I had a three week holiday to Western Australia to see the wildflowers. We have always wanted to see the wildflowers but couldn't get away because the spring is our busiest time in the nursery. We decided that if we did not go now we never would, so we flew to Perth and hired a Motor home.

We headed north to Mt. Magnet and then west to Carnarvon looking at wildflowers along the way. We then headed north to Shark Bay to meet up with my cousin who runs Tamala Station in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

After visiting the tourist spots in the area we headed south to Kalbarri and we were just blown away by the wildflowers along the roadside. When we left Kalbarri we worked our way south looking at wildflowers along the roadside.

At this stage we had only seen one fern *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*? Once we arrived in Perth we saw an abundance of *Cyathea cooperi* in private gardens. We travelled further south and as we approached Albany we saw *Histiopteris incisa* and *Pteridium esculentum* growing along the roadside. We later saw *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Isoetes drummondi* and *Pleurosorus rutifolius* at Wave Rock.

When we arrived at Albany we were met by Meryl and Ian Broughton, it was great to see them again and we had a lot to talk about. Meryl and Ian took us out to their favourite restaurant for tea, it was a large restaurant and we had so

much to catch up with that we were the last to leave. It has been nine years since Ian and Meryl left Victoria for Western Australia.

Ian took the next day off from his work and drove us in his four wheel drive vehicle to the Stirling Ranges to show us the wildflowers in that region. They were just beautiful, we saw many orchids. I have never seen so many different varieties of Spider Orchids and Donkey Orchids. We arrived back in Albany quite late after a very full day wildflower hunting and we then said our good-byes.

We continued on to Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Wave Rock and then back to Perth.

Ian was a very active member of our Fern Society participating in all the Fern Shows for about twenty years until he left with his family for Albany.

He served as President of the Fern Society from September 1998, to June 2003; he followed me in the chair.

The downside to our visit was to learn that Ian has leukaemia. At the moment it is in its early stages and is too early for treatment.

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What makes ferns so fabulous? (Part 2)

Abstract of presentation to FSV July 2012 meeting

Terry Turney

Editor's note. I could not fit Terry's final topic into the previous newsletter:

Fern survival mechanisms

Ferns have occupied most niches available for life – from ice-covered mountains to deserts and even living in fresh water. Pretty well the only environments they haven't been able to conquer are the sea and thermal springs. They owe their habitat diversity to all the neat adaptive strategies they have evolved.

There is a special class of ferns specifically adapted to very dry conditions – the “resurrection ferns”. There are able to shrivel up to some degree by losing water and in extreme cases look totally dead. Just add water and they come back to life within hours! Many of these ferns also have a powdery white or yellow coating on their undersides, called “farina”, which slows down water loss, partly by reflecting the heat and partly by acting as a water barrier. Such xerophytes include, *Notholaena standleyi* (Star Cloak Fern), *Cheilanthes lendigera* (a beautiful fern with the unendearing common name of the “Nit-bearing Lip Fern”) and *Argyrochosma dealbata* (Powdery Cloak Fern).

Pityrogramma calomelanos (the silverback fern) and *Pityrogramma austroamericana* (the golden fern) are very attractive farina-covered ferns,

which were commonly found in Australian nurseries a decade or so ago, but now rarely seen.

And then there are ant ferns, enormous ferns, miniscule ferns, really odd reproductive strategies – apospory and apogamy. The list of fascinating features goes on and on and on.....



When water-stressed, *Notholaena standleyi* fronds roll inwards, exposing their farina-covered under surfaces. Photo: Terry Turney.

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Pityrogramma austroamericana. Photo: Terry Turney.

Doodias

Barry White

Doodias are members of the Blechnaceae family which typically have longitudinal spore patches on either side of the mid-rib.

The family has eight genera, with four in Australia. The four are *Blechnum*, *Doodia*, *Stenochlaena* and *Pteridoblechnum*. An overseas genus common here in cultivation is *Woodwardia*. *Blechnum*, *Stenochlaena* and *Pteridoblechnum* have a continuous spore patch whereas *Doodia* and *Woodwardia* have interrupted patches.

Doodias are terrestrial ferns with erect or short creeping rhizome, sori slightly elongated in one or two rows, parallel to the midrib. The indusia are elongated, opening towards the midrib and attached to a vein. The fronds are usually harsh and are often pink coloured. The ferns form small colonies in damp forest areas and in some more exposed conditions. They also tolerate drier soils and less humidity than most ferns. They are named after Samuel Doody (1656-1706) a London pharmacist and fern botanist. Hybridization is common among Doodias and can cause confusion. In the USA they are called Hacksaw Ferns.

Doodias occur in Australia, N.Z., New Guinea, some Pacific Islands, Hawai'i, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

There are about 30 species, with 9 species in Australia, of which 5 are endemic. Three species occur in Victoria; *D. aspera* is just Eastern Vic., whereas *D. caudata* and *D. australis* are widespread. In older books *D. australis* appears as *D. media*.

D. caudata (Small Rasp fern) is a small fern with dimorphic fronds. The non-fertile fronds are short and spreading, while the fertile fronds are longer and erect. The stipe and rachis are smooth with a few pale scales, pinnae attached only by midrib in the lower half of the lamina. The sori are more than 1.5 mm long becoming confluent, one row either side of midrib.

D. aspera (Prickly Rasp Fern) all pinnae are



(above) *Doodia caudata* and distribution. Photo: Barry White.



(above) *Doodia aspera* variety. Photo: Barry White.

Doodias (continued)

Barry White

sessile, fronds are not dimorphic, stipe and rachis are rough and have black scales. The lower pinnae are broadly attached.



(above) *Doodia aspera* distribution.

D. hindii is similar to *D. aspera* but does not have the harsh foliage and the stipe lacks tubercles. It is endemic and has only recently been described and is not listed in many books. It has so far been found only in a limited area in North East NSW.



(above) *Doodia hindii* at Peter Hind's garden.
Photo: Barry White.



(above) *Doodia hindii* distribution.

D. australis (Common Rasp Fern) is usually not strongly dimorphic, the pinnae are attached only by midrib in less than one third of the lower lamina. The stipe and rachis are rough with black scales, sori up to 2 mm long in one or two rows, not becoming confluent. Stipe with tubercles, lowest 1-3 pairs stalked, gradually becoming sessile towards the middle of the lamina, longest pinnae 7-75 mm long.



(above) *Doodia australis* at Paradise Falls. Photo: Barry White.

Doodias (continued)

Barry White

D. media (Common Rasp Fern) is often confused with *D. australis*. The stipe lacks tubercles and does not have the rough feel of *D. australis*. The fronds are sometimes dimorphic, the lower pinnae are shortly stalked, transition to decurrent pinnae in middle part of the frond abrupt (over 2-3 pairs), longest pinnae 8-38 mm long. Sori to 2 mm, confluent when mature



(above) *Doodia media*. Lord Howe Island. Photo: Barry White.

D. maxima is an endemic fern with an erect rhizome to 30 cm tall, the stipe is rough with tubercles, the fronds are not dimorphic, and the pinnae up to 13 cm. long. There is speculation that it may be a hybrid.



(above) *Doodia maxima*. Photo: Barry White.

D. dissecta (previously *D. caudata* form *triloba*) is named for the divided pinnae which are unique to



(above) *Doodia dissecta*. Photo: Barry White.

the genus. It is dimorphic, endemic, and has a smooth stipe.

D. linearis is an endemic fern with dimorphic fronds, and the fertile frond pinnate with a terminal lobe half to two thirds of frond length.



(above) *Doodia linearis*. Photo: Barry White.

D. heterophylla is endemic, dimorphic, stipe without tubercles, apical lobe one sixth to one ninth of lamina length.

Doodia heterophylla is illustrated on the cover of this issue; distribution maps of

Doodias (continued)

Barry White



(above) *Doodia hindii* distribution



(above) *Doodia dissecta* distribution



(above) *Doodia media* distribution



(above) *Doodia linearis* distribution



(above) *Doodia maxima* distribution



(above) *Doodia heterophylla* distribution

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Two of our members have passed away:

Margaret Whipp has told the Society that her father Ray Harrison passed away on the 15th October. He and Margaret's mother, Fran enjoyed many happy years with the Fern Society and made many good friends. They loved reading the newsletter. He would have wanted his best wishes passed on to the Society.

Secondly, Bob Fuller has conveyed the sad news that Bob Sayer passed away in June.

On behalf of all FSV members, the committee would like to offer condolences to the families and friends of Ray and Bob for their losses.

Bush House Nursery Closing Down Sale

Lorraine Deppeler

Yes, I am finally hanging up the spade & going into retirement. But this doesn't mean that I will not continue my interest in ferns, other plants & gardening. In fact I am hoping to continue collecting ferns as a hobby as well as maintaining our large garden & other interests including the demands of being a grandmother of 6 lively grandchildren & doing a bit of travelling with my husband.

The nursery will be closing at the end of the year. Thank you to everyone who has supported the nursery over the past years.

All stock is now available at wholesale prices or less.

For a list of ferns & prices contact Lorraine at

The Bush-House Nursery, 18 Hermitage Drive,
Allansford 3277

Email: bushhousenursery@yahoo.com.au

Phone: 0427519159

Mail order available.

Regards,

Lorraine Deppeler

The Bush House Nursery

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Lorraine Deppeler

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Fax: (03) 5565 1656

18 Hermitage Drive

Allansford 3277

Web: www.bushhousenursery.com.au

Fern Competition Results for August

First: *Asplenium polyodon* grown by Don Fuller (right)

Second: *Asplenium pteridoides* grown by Barry White (below)

Third: *Asplenium robinsonii* grown by Don Fuller (below right; all photos by Barry White)

2012 Calendar of events — Fern Society of Victoria

7:30 pm Thursday 15 November 2012

Annual General Meeting and plant sale

together with slide show and talk from Warren Simpson

From 12 midday, Sunday December 2

FSV Christmas gathering

Maranoa Gardens - Balwyn

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Doodia australis at Chris Goodey's nursery. Photo: Barry White.

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 50 cents per sample, non-members \$1, 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 are being phased out in favour of PayPal via the FSV website. 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 June 2012, but consult the web page at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fernsvic/Sporlist.html> for updates and for details of payment options for spore purchases. Thank you to the spore donors who are listed on the web page.

<i>Acrostichum speciosum</i> 4/09	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> 1/09	<i>Oenotrichia pinnata</i> 7/11
<i>Adiantum concinnum</i> 4/11	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> (Blue Stipe) 1/11	<i>Ophioglossum pendulum</i> 7/08
<i>Adiantum formosum</i> 1/12	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> 'Brentwood' 3/08	<i>Pellaea cordata</i> 7/09
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> 6/12	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> 'Cinnamon' 4/11	<i>Pellaea falcata</i> 1/11
<i>Adiantum raddianum</i> 'Le Grand Morgan' 6/12	<i>Cyathea exilis</i> 7/11	<i>Pellaea hastata</i> 5/10
<i>Adiantum raddianum</i> 'Triumph' 6/12	<i>Cyathea felina</i> 10/08	<i>Pellaea viridis</i> 5/12
<i>Aleuritopteris kuhnii</i> 6/10	<i>Cyathea howeana</i> 10/10	<i>Phegopteris decursive-pinnata</i> 3/12
<i>Amphineuron opulentum</i> 7/11	<i>Cyathea macarthuri</i> 10/10	<i>Pityrogramma calomelanos</i> 8/11
<i>Anemia phyllitides</i> 6/09	<i>Cyathea robusta</i> 9/10	<i>Platyserium bifurcatum</i> 4/11
<i>Anemia tomentosa</i> 8/08	<i>Cyathea rebecca</i> (crested) 9/10	<i>Platyserium bifurcatum</i> 'Venosum' Mt Lewis 10/07
<i>Angiopteris evecta</i> 11/09	<i>Cyrtomium caryotideum</i> 8/10	<i>Platyserium superbum</i> 4/08
<i>Arachniodes aristata</i> 4/12	<i>Cyrtomium fortunei</i> 6/10	<i>Pleisoneuron tuberculatus</i> 1/11
<i>Arachniodes mutica</i> 10/08	<i>Cyrtomium juglandifolium</i> 6/12	<i>Pneumatopteris sogerensis</i> 7/11
<i>Arachniodes standishii</i> 8/11	<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i> 9/10	<i>Pneumatopteris costata</i> 6/11
<i>Asplenium aethiopicum</i> 4/12	<i>Diplazium australe</i> 1/12	<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i> 7/09
<i>Asplenium athertonense</i> 7/11	<i>Diplazium assimile</i> 6/09	<i>Polystichum australiense</i> 4/12
<i>Asplenium milnei</i> 10/10	<i>Diplazium dilatatum</i> 12/10	<i>Polystichum formosum</i> 4/12
<i>Asplenium nidus</i> 5/08	<i>Diplazium dilatatum</i> x <i>Deparia petersenii</i> v. congrua 3/11	<i>Polystichum proliferum</i> 12/10
<i>Asplenium nidus</i> cv. 5/08	<i>Doodia australis</i> 2/12	<i>Polystichum retroso-paleacum</i> 12/11
<i>Asplenium pellucidum</i> 3/11	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> 'Cristata' 1/12	<i>Polystichum tsus-simense</i> 11/11
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> (red stipe) 12/10	<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i> 1/12	<i>Polystichum whiteleggei</i> 10/10
<i>Athyrium otophorum</i> 1/12	<i>Dryopteris guanchica</i> 11/11	<i>Polystichum xiphophyllum</i> 3/08
<i>Blechnum ambiguum</i> 1/08	<i>Dryopteris sieboldii</i> 3/11	<i>Pronephrium asperum</i> 1/11
<i>Blechnum braziliense</i> 1/12	<i>Dryopteris sparsa</i> 5/11	<i>Pteris aspericaulis</i> 8/10
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i> 4/12	<i>Histiopteris incisa</i> 12/11	<i>Pteris baurita</i> 3/12
<i>Blechnum discolor</i> 4/12	<i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i> 1/12	<i>Pteris dentata</i> 12/10
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i> 9/11	<i>Hypolepis muelleri</i> 3/12	<i>Pteris hendersonii</i> 12/10
<i>Blechnum minus</i> 3/12	<i>Lastreopsis acuminata</i> 4/11	<i>Pteris pacifica</i> 6/10
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i> 4/11	<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i> 1/12	<i>Pteris stenopylla</i> 4/11
<i>Blechnum spicant</i> 1/12	<i>Lastreopsis marginans</i> 3/12	<i>Pteris tremula</i> 11/10
<i>Blechnum wattsii</i> 9/11	<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i> 6/10	<i>Pteris umbrosa</i> 1/12
<i>Blechnum wurunurum</i> 7/11	<i>Lastreopsis nephroides</i> 4/12	<i>Revwattsii fragile</i> 3/11
<i>Cheilanthes myriophylla</i> 3/12	<i>Lastreopsis rufescens</i> 3/11	<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i> (Cape form) 2/08
<i>Chingia australis</i> 8/11	<i>Lastreopsis tenera</i> 3/11	<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i> (native) 4/12
<i>Christella dentata</i> 3/12	<i>Lastreopsis tinaroense</i> 7/11	<i>Sphaerostephanos heterocarpus</i> 7/11
<i>Christella hispidula</i> /09	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i> 2/10	<i>Teratophyllum brighiae</i> 8/11
<i>Christella parasitica</i> 5/11	<i>Macrothelypteris torresiana</i> 6/10	<i>Thelypteris patens</i> 9/09
<i>Christella subpubescens</i> 12/08	<i>Microlepis firma</i> 1/12	
<i>Coniogramme intermedia</i> 3/12	<i>Microsorium australiense</i>	
<i>Cyathea australis</i> 1/12	<i>Microsorium punctatum</i> 1/09	
<i>Cyathea baileyana</i> 3/11		

NEWSLETTER

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