Fern Society of Victoria

Newsletter

Volume 36, Number 5 September/October 2014



In this issue:

· More discussions on the future of the Society

Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 85 086 216 704

mail: PO Box 45, Heidelberg West, Victoria 3081, Australia

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

President	Barry Stagoll	9844 1558	mirra@iimetro.com.au
Vice President	Don Fuller	9306 5570	
Secretary	Barry White	9740 2724	barry_white1@msn.com.au
Treasurer	Don Fuller	9306 5570	
Spore Bank Manager	Barry White	9740 2724	barry_white1@msn.com.au
Librarian	Mirini Lang	9886 6109	
Editor	Robin Wilson	9597 0742	rwilson@museum.vic.gov.au
Committee members	Mirini Lang 9886 6109, Gay Stagoll 9844 1558, Brenda Girdlestone 9390 7073, Warren Simpson 0419 594 524,		

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.

Subscri	pti	ons
Cimala	7	

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

President's Note

In the last issue of FSV Newsletter I discussed the low level of member participation in Society activities and foreshadowed consideration by Committee of the practicality of the Fern Society continuing to function as a registered association.

The Committee has since deliberated on this question at two subsequent meetings, and has reluctantly concluded that it is, indeed, time to wind-up the Society A Special Resolution for winding-up will be proposed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting to be held in October.

I indicated readiness to receive feedback from members in connection with the intimation that in the near term this course might well be judged by the Committee to be appropriate.

Excepting for present and certain past Committee members, and our Auditor Bernadette Thomson, I've not received reactions from other members – and certainly not any representations that such a course would be inappropriate.

Past President Ian Broughton (retired June 2003, and since then a WA resident) sent me an email message to convey his thoughts on the Society's situation. I've responded with thanks to his contribution, and I've passed this to the Editor so he may include it in this issue to share with members.

In the last issue. I discussed the prospect that members interested in continuing contact with other fern enthusiasts might consider doing so in informal contact groups. Since then I have put to Committee the prospect that members so inclined might take up membership in

other existing horticultural societies which have (or which may be prepared to accommodate) a focus on ferns.

For those whose principal interest is native Australian ferns, the Fern Study Group of the Australian Plants Society may serve as an attractive alternative group for such contact.

Separately, discussion has been initiated with the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society, based in the Dandenongs, which has indicated a willingness to consider the establishment of a Fern Group to its existing line-up of special-interest Groups focussed on a range of plant categories. On Committee we are continuing to work towards defining and facilitating arrangements which FSV members may find appealing to involve with these societies

We'll provide more detailed information in due course. In the meantime members may care to visit the FCHS website at www.fchs.org.au for more information about this society and how it functions.

Similarly, information about the APS Fern Study Group is available on the APS website

www.apsvic.org.au/study_groups.html#fern

See the separate note on this group contributed by Secretary Barry White elsewhere in this issue

(Note that this group does not at present hold meetings in Victoria)

Barry Stagoll

Cover image: Blechnum spicant; image source Biopi, Fosdalen, Lien, Hanherred, Denmark and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License via eol.org.

(continued)

committee meet, general members gather to view members gardens, tour areas of interest locally eg National Parks and generally socialise with a native plant background. Roughly 30 district groups in Vic. Plus a lone members officer acts as a contact point for people who do not join a local group for whatever reason.

District groups have their own committees who deal with that group's day to day running issues, organise speakers, outings etc. Basically these operate in an equivalent fashion to the FSV.

Study Groups: Set up as separate to the state regions and District groups, these operate on a national level and have their own co-ordinator who is part of the national body. These are run by an individual who co-ordinates activities, complies reports, the frequency of which is dictated by the group members activity level, deals with finances for the SG, which are modest and are mainly aimed at covering printing and postage costs. SG's can cover multiple families of plants (eg Ferns) or a single genus (eg Hakea) depending on interest in that group of plants.

What activity the SG undertakes depends entirely upon the members within that study group and how wide spread or clustered the members are. For example, if a study groups members were scattered widely over the state they may mainly focus on written reports of seed germination, plants survival under different cultivation conditions etc with only a once yearly or perhaps twice yearly field trip to observe plants in situ. However if a SG has a lot of members in an area where the plants under study grow in abundance naturally than they

may run monthly field trips over the flowering season with several house meetings at other times of the year. Input into a newsletter would be trip write-ups, cultivation notes etc.

Personally I lean towards the APS (where I have been a member since 1988) and not knowing how the FCHS operates feel that by forming a local "chapter" of the APS Fern SG we would be able to operate in a similar fashion to what we currently do, with a bias towards native ferns probably coming about if other APS members join the 'chapter".

To expect the Fern Society to keep functioning exactly as it does now if we were to dissolve the FSV (which will happen unless we get a sudden influx of members, some of whom are prepared to take on committee rolls) and then reform under a different banner, either APS FCHS or another body, is in my opinion, unrealistic. Most likely if some semblance

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Fern Society of Victoria meetings — 2014

7:30 pm Thursday 18 September
Kevin Heinze Centre
Misha Devine, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne staff
member with responsibility for the Fern Gully, will inform
us on the work programme taking place in the Fern Gully.
If time permits Barry Stagoll will follow with some images
and discussion of a recent trip to NT and Qld.
Competition category: Davallia

7:30 pm Thursday 16 October Kevin Heinze Centre Don Fuller will give a talk on Pteris Competition category Pteris

November (date to be advised in the next Newsletter) Annual General Meeting and Special Resolutions on winding up of the FSV



Ian Broughton

I feel I must write to express a few thoughts in response to your President's Note about the Society's future.

When I took on the role of president, nearly 16 years ago if my memory is correct, I felt quite sure I would be the last president and would oversee the closure of the FSV.

That it has continued, with a degree of strength, for 10-12 years longer than I anticipated is an enormous credit to all members who have been actively involved.

However, plants are dynamic things. They put down roots, thrive and flourish for their season and maybe achieve a stately old age. But many plants in gardens reach a point where they really must be removed.

I believe the FSV has had a similar history. At the right time, interested people started a group that put down roots and certainly flourished in a magnificent way. I well remember the first meeting I attended at Burnley and how stunned I was by the number of people and the passion that was demonstrated. Lifelong friendships were forged and strengthened through those meetings. Later, although a much smaller active group, the Society achieved a maturity and stability that could be likened to a stately old age.

Now, although closing the Society would

be sad, we have to consider that it has flourished for its season, achieved its purpose and met the needs of the members. But, if it no longer does that in an effective way, then it is appropriate to draw it to a graceful conclusion of the members choice, rather than just letting it fade into insignificance.

Meryl and I faced the same with closing our nursery. We did that at a time of our choosing, when it was still a viable business, but no longer meeting our needs or aspirations. Although the end was a very sad time, I'm convinced, if we hadn't closed when we did, the subsequent years would have seen the business fade away and close by necessity, not choice.

If your President's Note re-motivates people and inspires new growth, go with it for another season. But, when its time is over, don't cling to the Society's existence, rather celebrate and appreciate what it has been and what it has achieved - "in its day".

Regards to all

lan Broughton 10 August 2014



Above: Platycerium superbum grown and photographed by Ken Hall



Above: Yes, I know it isn't a fern! Beautiful white Telopea that I always stop to admire when I visit The University of Melbourne. It is at the back of the student union building. Photograph Robin Wilson.

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Barry White

Fern Study Group of the Australian Plant Society

If, as seems inevitable, the Society ceases to function there is a number of possible options for members to maintain an active contact with fern fernatics.

One such option is the Fern Study Group of the Australian Plant Society. This group is devoted to the study of our native ferns although many individual members have interests in a much wider range of ferns.

There is currently a section in Queensland and one in NSW, and although there may be individual members in Victoria, there is not at the moment an organised section in Victoria. The Study group puts out a Newsletter approximately every four months giving information about excursions and local meetings which may be held in members' homes, and general interest items on ferns. The Study Group also operates a native spore bank which is free to members.

Although there is currently no such section in Victoria one could be formed if there is sufficient interest. It would require a few persons willing to coordinate excursions and meetings, taking advantage of the existing Newsletter and financial structure of the Parent Study Group. There would be no need for formal committee meetings or any regulatory requirements.

To become a member of the Study Group one must first be a member of the Australian Plant Society, branches of which are present in various States. Membership of the Victorian branch costs \$32 per annum which includes the interesting quarterly publication "Australian Plants". The web site is http://www.apsvic.org.au/

Membership of the Fern Study Group is \$5 per annum. The membership person for the study Group is Dan Johnston 9 Ryhope St. Buderim Qld 4556. Email dan b.johnston@bigpond.com

Thoughts on the future of the Fern Society of

Victoria - 3

Warren Simpson

In my view there are three things to consider when contemplating the winding up of the Fern Society of Victoria:

- 1. Suggestions to members alternative clubs/societies to join so that they could continue with their fern interest if they so choose.
- 2. Disposal of Library
- 3. Disposal of Funds.
- 1. Suggested groups already discussed by the Committee were Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV), Ferny Creek Horticultural Society (FCHS), Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) and Fern Study Group of the Australian Plants Society (APS).

No-one said much about the RHSV at the committee meeting, presumably because not a lot was known about its function. It appears to be more of an overseeing body for garden clubs with ties into industry but is open to individual/family memberships. Does not appear to have any sort of a fern focus from a quick perusal of their website.

FNCV Botany group was suggested as an alternative. This group is not fern specific and very general. Members with specific fern interest are likely to feel swamped or left out of the action Operates a lot through their local groups, probably more so than as a state wide body.

Ferny Creek Horticultural Society. A

generalist garden club under a flash name? Not well known by me personally but well known by others on committee. Barry Stagoll and Terry Turney are elsewhere exploring options with FCHS.

FSG of APS. A group within the former Society for Growing Australian Plants, now known as the Australian Plants Society which is focused on the study of Australian Ferns exclusively. The study group is based out of Qld under the leadership of Peter Bostock, a botanist with a big interest in ferns. Local chapters in Qld and NSW, who conduct field trips, have house based meetings and conduct other business relating to native ferns. Would be point of contact for government departments etc seeking further information on local ferns.

Which way individuals go will have to be their own decision, with it quite likely that a lot of the older members not taking up any option.

General overview of APS operation:

National body which governs and runs the affairs of the organisation at a national level. Holds bi-annual conferences which are hosted by the state regions. Has limited interaction with members on a day by day basis.

State Regions: The main focus of the organisation, co-ordinates more of the day to day type operations of the group, has a local conservation focus, book sales, seed bank etc. Holds quarterly meetings that are hosted by district groups in Vic (not sure about other states) where the

(continued)

of the FSV remains, it will be as an SG chapter equivalent, with a local coordinator overseeing the organisation of house meetings and field trips, all to be self funded by the members.

2. Disposal of our library:

Multiples could be pared back to single copies where no donations are involved, in the extras offered for sale to members. The bulk of the library would ceally be kept intact and offered to the State Library of Victoria or one of the Universities with a botany department as an FSV collection or to the FCHS if they have a central library, with an agreement that they library is to be held together. Final decision to be made after or in conjunction with the disposal of funds.

3. Disposal of Funds:

Probably the most contentious issue to be dealt with. Options:

Split funds amongst the various groups mentioned above – not a lot of benefit to any one group and would not be seen to leave a legacy from the roll up of the FSV.

Canate to a University/Botanic garden for research or grounds maintaince: Not a arge enough pot of funds to do anything with research wise and would soon be fritted away if used for grounds . maintaince eg the Fern garden at the Botanic Garden. No real legacy here either.

Donate to a University as a Scholarship starter for people doing research projects

associated with ferns. Could be used as a true scholarship to aid in material purchase or as a travel fund provider. In either case the amount would go into trust, with the interest being used to fund a scholarship or travel fund. Ideally the amount awarded would be less than interest earned with balance being reinvested to increase the capital amount each year Would not have to be granted every year if no suitable projects ongoing and could be donated to the same person multiple times, but only once a year, if only one project ongoing. If more than one either a committee to decide or split into multiple grants if appropriate. If no suitable project, interest rolled back into capital. Other committee members are exploring these ideas for a scholarship and more information to be provided soon.

Scholarship to be awarded as FSV Perpetual Scholarship/Travel Fund to create a legacy out of the FSV's demise.

The library would accompany the \$20K at first instance, with alternatives being investigated if its acceptance was refused by the first body.

One other thing that the Society might want to be considered would be a "commemorative" mug of the FSV's existence. This would have wording along the lines of:

Fern Society of Victoria

[Logo]

Year Start to Year End

Editor's Note

Almost certainly you are now reading the second last edition ever of the Newsletter of the Fern Society of Victoria.

I had wanted to include a short item about a very recently published revision of the Blechnaceae, by Leon Perrie and colleagues including Patrick Brownsey. But I ran out of space and will put that short note into the last Newsletter.

Paradoxically this penultimate edition is all about the future! A number of contributors have offered pieces about the Society, and about other societies that could attract the interest of current FSV members if/when our society is wound up at the November Annual General Meeting.

In the interests of members I have been happy to print virtually all the contributions I received (omitting only the Calendar of activities of the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society, which can be found readily enough on the web site of that society).

I encourage all FSV members to consider these options and do their own research into the various societies and hopefully some of us will gather again under different auspices.

Robin Wilson

FOOTNOTE Membership subscriptions

Members are requested to please refrain from sending renewal subscriptions, as this will relieve the Treasurer from the task of refunding these, assuming a Special Resolution for winding up is adopted

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Ferny Creek Horticultural Society (taken from a recent welcome letter to a new member)

The Ferny Creek Horticultural Society Inc. has recently celebrated its 80th Year as a self funded volunteer organisation. The stated purposes are to promote and encourage the study and practice of horticulture, and to bring together members of the community who share a common interest in gardens. We are one of the very few gardening societies with our own garden and purpose built club facilities which we control.

The society has a wide variety of organised activities and focussed horticultural groups. As a member, all these groups and activities are open to you at no further charge and we strongly encourage you to try them out; get involved. There is no ongoing commitment implied, no special knowledge is necessary and you will be very warmly welcomed as a beginner or as an expert or anywhere in between.

The society also has one of the arguably best horticultural libraries around and as a member you have the right to browse and to borrow books for a month at a time. The library is normally open before the Saturday afternoon meetings and during the working bees

We have Saturday meetings of the various focus groups plus a general meeting. These normally consist of a talk from either an invited speaker or one of our

members, a show bench of material from members gardens to be discussed (please bring along some plants or flowers from your garden) followed by afternoon tea (bring a plate). We also organise bus outings to gardens, sale days and the like from time to time

Groups include a Photography Group; Rock Garden Group; Rhododendron/Camellia Group; Propagation Training Group (In recess at present); Craft Group; Floral Art Group (In recess at present)

There are 4 competitive flower shows per year which are open to the public and as a member you have free entry to these and you are both welcome and strongly encouraged to submit entries. There have been many "Blue Ribbons" won by first time exhibitors. You also have free entry to our Plant collector's sale and garden expo. The exact dates of our shows vary from year to year.

A newsletter is published several times a year including a Syllabus providing members with information on the Society's activities. The Society also regularly updates its website with member information. Please visit us at www.fchs.org.au.

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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 December 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

Acrostichum speciosum 4/09 Adiantum concinnum 4/11 Adiantum formosum 1/12 Adiantum hispidulum 6/12 Adiantum raddianum 'Le Grand

Morgan'6/12

Adiantum raddianum 'Triumph' 6/12 Aleuritopteris kuhnii 6/10

Amphineuron opulentum 7/11 Amphineuron queenslandicum 4/12

Anemia tomentosa 8/11
Angiopteris evecta 11/09
Arachniodes aristata 4/12
Arachniodes mutica 10/08
Arachniodes standishii 10/12
Asplenium aethiopicum 10/12
Asplenium milnei 10/10
Asplenium nidus 5/08
Asplenium nidus cv.5/08

Anemia phyllitides 4/12

Asplenium pellucidum 3/11 Athyrium filix-femina (red stipe) 12/10

Athyrium filix-femina (red sti Athyrium otophorum 1/12 Blechnum ambiguum 1/08 Blechnum braziliense 1/12 Blechnum chambersii 4/12 Blechnum discolor 8/12 Blechnum fluviatile 9/11 Blechnum minus 3/12 Blechnum patersonii 4/11 Blechnum spicant 1/12 Blechnum wattsii 9/11 Cheilanthes myriophylla 3/12 Christella dentata 3/12 Christella hispidula /09

Christella parasitica 5/11 Christella subpubescens 4/12 Cyathea australis 1/12 Cyathea baileyana 11/12

Cyathea brownii 10/12

Cyathea cooperi 1/09

Cyathea cooperi (Blue Stipe) 1/11 Cyathea cooperi 'Brentwood' 3/08 Cyathea cooperi 'Cinnamon' 4/11

Cyathea exilis 12/12

Cyathea leichhardtiana 8/12 Cyathea macarthuri 10/10 Cyathea medullaris 10/12 Cyathea rebeccae 8/12 Cyathea robusta9/10

Cyrtomium caryotideum 8/10
Cyrtomium fortunei 6/10
Cyrtomium juglandifolium 6/12
Dicksonia antarctica 8/12
Diplazium australe 1/12
Diplazium assimile 7/12
Diplazium dilatatum 12/10
Diplazium dilatatum x Deparia
petersenii v. congrua 3/11

Doodia australis 2/12 Dryopteris affinis 'Cristata' 1/12 Dryopteris cycadina 11/12 Dryopteris erythrosora 1/12

Dryopteris guanchica 11/12 Dryopteris sieboldii 3/11 Dryopteris sparsa 11/12 Dryopteris wattsii 11/12 Histiopteris incisa 12/11

Hypolepis glandulifera 1/12 Hypolepis muelleri 3/12 Lastreopsis acuminata 10/12 Lastreopsis decomposita 1/12 Lastreopsis marginans 3/12 Lastreopsis microsora 11/12 Lastreopsis nephrodioides 4/12

Lastreopsis rufescens 3/11 Lastreopsis tenera 3/11 Lygodium japonicum 2/10 Lygodium reticulatum 11/12 Macrothelypteris torresiana 4/12

Microlepia firma 1/12

Microsorum punctatum 1/09 Oenotrichia pinnata 7/11 Ophioglossum pendulum 7/08

Pellaea cordata 7/09 Pellaea falcata 1/11 Pellaea hastata 5/10 Pellaea viridis 5/12

Phegopteris decursive-pinnata 3/12 Pityrogramma calomelanos 8/11 Platycerium bifurcatum 'Venosum' Mt

Lewis 10/07

Platycerium superbum 4/08
Pleisioneuron tuberculatus 1/11
Pneumatopteris sogerensis 7/11
Pneumatopteris costata 6/11
Polypodium formosanum 10/12
Polystichum aculeatum 7/09
Polystichum australiense 10/12
Polystichum formosum 11/12
Polystichum proliferum 12/10

Polystichum retroso-paleacum 10/12 Polystichum tsus-simense 11/11 Polystichum whiteleggei 10/10 Pronephrium asperum 1/11 Pteris aspericaulis 8/10 Pteris biaurita 3/12 Pteris dentata 12/10 Pteris hendersonii 12/10 Pteris pacifica 12/12 Pteris stenophylla 4/11 Pteris tremula 11/10

Pteris umbrosa 8/12 Revwattsii fragile 3/11 Rumohra adiantiformis(Cape form) 2/12

Rumohra adiantiformis (native) 4/12 Sphaerostephanos heterocarpus 7/11 Teratophyllum brightiae 8/11 Thelypteris patens 9/09 NEWSLETTER
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