

Fern Society of Victoria

Newsletter

Volume 36, Number 6
November/December 2014



Final Issue. Inside:

- Winding up the Society
- Shield Ferns

Fern Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 85 086 216 704

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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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Subscriptions

Single	\$17.00
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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

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.

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

Committee has continued its deliberations on the proposed winding up of Fern Society of Victoria, and proposes that the Special Motions required to effect this will be put to a General Meeting of members at the Kevin Heinz Centre on Thursday 20th November (Note: not during October, as suggested in the last Newsletter). More information about the Meeting is included in this Newsletter.

These deliberations have incorporated consideration on the important issue of how best the Society might ensure that its assets are disbursed in a manner appropriate to the aspirations and interests which led to its founding, and which will see them used in ways, and by organisations, where worthy and durable results may be expected as a result of benefactions derived from FSV.

We trust that specific proposals which have been under consideration for Committee endorsement will have the support of the membership. The principal uses of funds being considered by Committee are (1) funding to assist in establishment of funding to the University of Melbourne Botany Foundation to support a botany postgraduate student's research on ferns and curation of ferns in the University Herbarium, and (2) funding to The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne for upgrading the Fern Gully, with the possibility of funding also to RBG Cranbourne for establishment of a fern area there. For full

details of all Special Resolutions proposed by the Committee, see page 12 of this Newsletter.

The Committee has also under live consideration the prospective offer of FSV Library books on native Australian ferns to the Fern Study Group of the Australian Plants Society, and books on exotic ferns to the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society for their library.

I hope that the other information included in the last Newsletter assisted members in their own consideration of the situation, and stand ready to respond to member feedback.

ADDENDUM Our final monthly Member's Meeting was held yesterday evening 17th October, and even though we were only a few, it was enjoyed by all present, although naturally there were regrets at the imminent winding-up of FSV. Barry White, Gay & I harked back to the inaugural meeting in the Herbarium called in 1979 by founding President Chris Goudey to promote the Society's founding, and can be excused for our disappointment – no doubt shared generally amongst members – that the end is nigh, and we'll soon attend the last meeting.

FOOTNOTE It was a pleasure to have former FSV Librarian David Radford (now resident with his partner Eileen in Kiama, NSW), as a surprise visitor at the October meeting.

Barry Stagoll

Editor's Note

All that need be said has been written by Barry in his final President's Note. I would like to thank all contributors for all their efforts to support me and previous Editors

of the FSV Newsletter with their excellent content. And many thanks for the kind comments I have received during my time as Editor. I wish everyone well.

Robin Wilson

Cover image: Fan Fern, probably *Sticherus flabellatus*. Photographed under a waterfall at Elvina Bay, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Australia; Source:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Shield_Fern_Elvina_Bay.jpg Photograph Peter Woodard and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 1.0 License.

Ferns in Brisbane's Roma Street Gardens

Barry Stagoll

On a recent short stay in Brisbane, we made a visit to the Roma Street Gardens to review the state of the fern plantings there. We were very pleased to see that the ferns are accorded "star" status, even more so than when the Gardens were opened some years ago. The displays are magnificent, and well stocked with a good selection of plants

For those who've not seen them, the Gardens were constructed on the large space behind the Roma Street Station which was originally the site of Brisbane's large railway yards, bordered on the east and south boundaries by Wickham Terrace.

Two main areas house ferns. First the Fern Gully at the north of the Gardens, which includes a high walkway (this allows the opportunity to view the forest plantings in this area from two different vantage points

at ground level and from above). The second, located centrally, is described as The Fernery, where a large number of ferns are sited along a long path. As far as we noticed, with the exception of numbers of plants of *Blechnum gibbum* which were planted not long before one of our previous visits a number of years ago, all the ferns included are indigenous to Queensland.

They include very large and very fine examples of *Angiopteris evecta*, which we're always excited to observe.

We strongly recommend a visit to Roma Street Gardens to readers who may visit Brisbane (it's also very well worthwhile visiting the Brisbane Botanic Gardens by the river at the north end of the CBD – now usually referred to as the City Gardens). Not so many ferns, but fine examples of rainforest plants.

Melbourne Botanic Gardens Update

Mischa Davine of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens gave the September meeting of the Society an update on the forthcoming renovations to the fern gully walk at the botanic Gardens. These notes from the meeting are provided courtesy of Barry White.

The path through the fern gully is currently asphalted and is dangerous in parts and also partly closed. Andrew Laidlaw of the Gardens has designed a raised steel board walk which will be about 200 metres long, with 5 wooden bridges and stopping points with benches. Construction is to start immediately and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The fern gully features ferns from Australasia.

The Gardens have been building up stocks of ferns for replanting, the main source being Fern Acres in Kinglake. The bulk of the replanting will be in the autumn. Labelling of the ferns will come later.

See pages 10 and 14 for photographs supporting the above articles.

Fern Society of Victoria FINAL meeting — 2014

7:30 pm Thursday 20 November

Kevin Heinze Centre

Annual General Meeting

At this, the final meeting of the Fern Society of Victoria, members are warmly encouraged to embrace this last opportunity and support the theme "Favourite Ferns" by bringing for display and general discussion some examples of your favourite ferns.

Members are requested to note information provided in this issue on Special Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (page 12) and on proxy and postal voting (page 13).

VOTING BY PROXY

It is open to a member who cannot attend in person to appoint another member (one who they understand intends to attend the meeting) by name, or they can (if they so wish) nominate an office-holder (the usual choice is to nominate the "chairperson" - in this case the President would serve, but if the President couldn't attend, the meeting would appoint a chairperson). The proxy form may nominate how the proxy-holder should exercise their vote, "in favour", or "against", or it may be left open for the proxy-holder to decide. In any case, the proxy-holder is bound to exercise the vote in good faith as instructed by the member.

See pages 12-13 for details of Special Resolutions and Proxy voting

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Shield Ferns

Barry White

The following notes are a summary based on Barry's talk to the Fern Society of Victoria on Thursday 21 August 2014.

What is a Shield Fern? This is a general term for members of the Dryopteridaceae family. The term shield refers to the umbrella shaped indusium protecting the sorus. The stem of the umbrella may be attached centrally or to one side. However not all members of the family have an indusium, but their overall characteristics are of the family.

Eight genera of the family are found in Australia: *Lastreopsis*, *Polystichum*, *Arachniodes*, *Dryopteris*, *Rumohra*, *Tectaria*, *Coveniella* with one naturalised: *Cyrtomium*. (There was one other genus, *Revwattsii*, containing *Revwattsii fragile*, but this species has had a name change to *Dryopteris wattsii*.) Shield ferns are mostly terrestrial with *Rumohra adiantiformis* and *Dryopteris wattsii* being epiphytic.

The veins are anastomosing in *Tectaria*, *Coveniella* and *Cyrtomium*, and are free in remaining genera. The open connection between the grooves on the primary and secondary rachis in *Lastreopsis*, *Dryopteris* and *Arachniodes* is a handy distinguishing feature from *Polystichum*. Some notes on the genera follow.

Lastreopsis includes some 30 species, including 15 in Australia and 4 in Victoria. Rhizome erect or more commonly creeping. Lower pinnae markedly asymmetrical. Veins free. Five species are exindusiate (*L. tinaroensis*, *L. grayii*, *L. wurunuran*, all endemic to NE Qld, also *L. munita*, *L. rufescens*). Ten other species have an indented round indusium. The thick edge of the leaf margin is continuous with ridge on rachis in contrast with *Arachniodes* and *Dryopteris*. The four Victorian species are: *L. acuminata* (*shepherdii*) eastern states, *L. hispida* (Otways, Dandenongs, Gippsland, NSW, Tas), *L. microsora* (east of Cann river in east Gippsland, NSW, Qld), *L. decomposita* (East of

Mallacoota Inlet, NSW, SE Qld).

Polystichum contains some 160 -175 species, four of which are found in Australia, all endemic. Only *P. proliferum* and *P. australiense* have proliferous buds at the end of the frond. Pinnules have sharply toothed margins. Erect rhizome, densely scaly. Grooves not connecting. Veins free. *P. proliferum* NSW, Vic, Tas; *P. formosum* east Vic, NSW, SE Qld; *P. australiense* eastern NSW; *P. fallax* SE Qld, eastern NSW.

Arachniodes includes 50 species, with only one found in Australia, *A. aristata*. Very similar to *Lastreopsis* but leaf margin is not thickened and not continuous with rachis. Lamina leathery and glossy. Pinnae margins have long fine teeth. *Arachniodes aristata* eastern Qld & NSW, S. Africa, Asia.

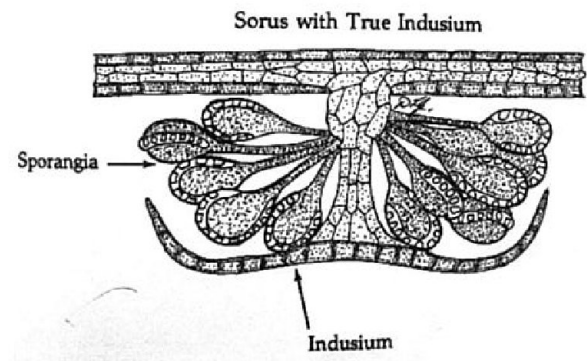
Dryopteris contains 150 species, 3 occurring in Australia. Rhizome normally terrestrial, although *Dryopteris wattsii* is epiphytic. Fronds 1 to 4 pinnate, may have hair-like scales but not hairs. Stipe, rachis often densely scaly. Stipe contains a ring of several vascular bundles, with a deep groove. Grooves continuous. Veins free. Segment margins frequently toothed, but the apex does not end in a single long-acute or aristate tooth at the tip. Normally indusiate (except *D. hasseltii*), indusium with a deep narrow sinus reaching to the central point of attachment. *Dryopteris hasseltii* NE Qld, Asia; *Dryopteris sparsa* NE Qld, Asia; *Dryopteris wattsii* NE Qld, very rare.

Tectaria includes 150 species, of which 4 are found in Australia. Veins usually anastomosing, lowest pair of pinnae enlarged on lower side. *Tectaria convexa* Qld, Asia;

Shield Ferns (continued)



Above left: *Lastreopsis acuminata* sori



Above right: drawing of indusium covering sporangia

Below left: *Dryopteris wattsi* (was *Revwattsi* fragile)

Below right: *Angiopteris evecta*

photos: Barry White



Tectaria confluens endemic to NE Qld; *Tectaria brachiata* NE Qld, Asia; *Tectaria silfolia* NE Qld, NT, Asia.

Coveniella contains a single species endemic to NE Qld. Rhizome creeping. Indusium absent. Minor anastomosing of veins. *Coveniella poecilophlebia* endemic to NE Qld.

Rumohra contains 2-6 species, 1 is found in Australia. Epiphytic (in Australia). Long creeping rhizome, densely scaly. Once placed

in the family Davalliaceae. Rachis with central ridge and two grooves. Veins free. *Rumohra adiantiformis* eastern Australia, NZ, PNG, S Africa, S America

Cyrtomium includes 25 species, of which one, *C. falcatum*, is naturalised in Australia. Veins usually anastomosing. Lowest pair of pinnae similar in shape and size to adjacent pinnae. Pinnae asymmetrical about the midrib.

Shield Ferns (continued)



Above left: *Polystichum proliferum*



Above right: *Polystichum proliferum* sori

Bottom left: *Rumohra adiantiformis*

Lower right: *Polystichum proliferum* veins

Bottom right: *Rumohra adiantiformis* sporangia

photos: Barry White



Competition winners (Davallia)



Competition winners from the September meeting.

Top left: 1st *Davallia plumosa*; top right 2nd *Davallia canariensis* grown by B White; bottom left 3rd *Davallia pyxidata* grown by B.White. Thanks to Barry White for all photos.

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Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens fern gully, 2014. Photograph by Barry White. See article on page 4.



Roma Street Gardens fern gully, 2014. Above left: *Angiopteris evecta*, above right: *Blechnum gibbum* in the fernery, below left: *Stenochlaena palustris* (Climbing Swamp Fern), below right: The Fernery - Why won't mine grow as well? Photographs by Barry Stagoll. See article page 4.



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Special Resolution 1

Winding up the Fern Society of Victoria

That the Fern Society of Victoria Inc. be wound up and that the Society apply to the Registrar at Consumer Affairs Victoria for Voluntary Cancellation of Incorporation.

Special Resolution 2

School of Botany, The University of Melbourne

That \$14,000 be donated to the to the School of Botany at the University of Melbourne to establish a "Fern Research Fund", the capital to be preserved and the interest used to fund the research work of a post-graduate student or for curatorial work in the Melbourne Herbarium.

Special Resolution 3

Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

That \$5,000 be donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne for development and maintenance of the fern gulley.

Special Resolution 4

Ballarat Fernery

That \$2,000 be donated to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Trust for the Fernery Redevelopment Project.

Special Resolution 5

Kevin Heinze Garden Centre

It is proposed that any funds from the Fern Society of Victoria remaining after the execution of Special Resolutions 1, 2, 3 and 4 and after discharging any other obligations, would be donated to the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre.

Procedures for proxy voting

PROXY VOTE

Under the legislation members may appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote and speak at the General Meeting. The appointment must be in writing and signed by the member. The proxy may give specific directions on how to vote, or it may be left open. The proxy appointment may be made by using the form below or in a letter in a similar format.

The proxy advice may be mailed to the secretary Barry White, 34 Noble Way Sunbury, 3429. This must be received at least 24 hours before the meeting. Alternatively it may be given to the Chairperson before or at the commencement of the meeting.

PROXY VOTE

I (print name):

hereby appoint (print name):

as my proxy to vote on the Special Resolutions to be presented at the Special General Meeting of the Fern Society of Victoria on the 20th November 2014.

The appointee is free to vote either way on the Special Resolutions or:

Special Resolution 1. "That the Fern Society of Victoria Inc. is wound up and that the Society applies to the Registrar at Consumer Affairs Victoria for Voluntary Cancellation of Incorporation." Vote yes/no (Circle your selection)

Special Resolution 2. "That \$14,000 be donated to the to the School of Botany at the University of Melbourne to establish a "Fern Research Fund", the capital to be preserved and the interest used to fund the research work of a post-graduate student or for curatorial work in the Melbourne Herbarium." Vote yes/no (Circle your selection)

Special Resolution 3. "That \$5,000 be donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne for development and maintenance of the fern gully." Vote yes/no (Circle your selection)

Special Resolution 4. "That \$2,000 be donated to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Trust for the Fernery Redevelopment Project." Vote yes/no (Circle your selection)

Special Resolution 5. "That any remaining funds after disbursement of funds in accordance with Special Resolutions 2, 3, and 4 be donated to the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre.

Vote yes/no (Circle your selection)

Fern Society of Victoria FINAL meeting — 2014

7:30 pm Thursday 20 November

Kevin Heinze Centre

Annual General Meeting

At this, the final meeting of the Fern Society of Victoria, members are warmly encouraged to embrace this last opportunity and support the theme "Favourite Ferns" by bringing for display and general discussion some examples of your favourite ferns.

Members are requested to note information provided in this issue on Special Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (page 12) and on proxy and postal voting (page 13).



A final view of the Roma Street Gardens, Brisbane. Although I could easily have cropped it out, I thought it somehow fitting that in this final Newsletter we could enjoy a final view not only of the Gardens, but of the thumb of the last President of the Fern Society of Victoria, Barry Stagoll! The Editor

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

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

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