

**FERN SOCIETY  
OF VICTORIA**

**NEWSLETTER**

DATE JULY '80  
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NUMBER 6

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Our first Annual General Meeting will take place on August 14th, at 8 p.m., at the Burnley Horticultural School Hall.

Nominations for Office-bearers must be received this month - and remember, you must be financial to vote. A nomination and membership renewal slip will be enclosed with this Newsletter.

Our financial situation is not good, but this is due mainly to a large order of books still outstanding from the Los Angeles International Fern Society. I received correspondence only this week regarding the order; it was apparently inadvertently sent to Europe.

A fresh order has been dispatched to us, and should arrive in due course. One good thing came of it - the order for 1980 calendars has now been cancelled, so there is a credit which can go towards orders which we have received since last November and not passed on to the Los Angeles International Fern Society.

Our best achievement for our first year has been the Newsletter: we kept it at a high standard in spite of our financial situation, as we feel that it is our only contact with country and interstate members. I look forward to the day when we can feature a glossy colour cover, and perhaps a monthly fern lesson.

Other accomplishments during the year have been Society Badges, which sell for \$1.50, name tags, and prize cards for our monthly competitions.

Attendance throughout the year has been very good, with numbers usually in excess of one hundred, even through the winter months.

A good deal of interest has been shown in our excursions to the Botanic Gardens, Sherbrooke Forest and our joint venture with the South Australian Fern Society to the Otway Ranges.

I believe that the S.A.F.S. is working on another excursion for next summer - to a different fern area in Victoria, perhaps Gippsland or the Dandenongs. Let us hope that we can join them.

We are also working on an excursion to the South Island of New Zealand for June next year. There is a very active Fern Society in New Zealand; if all goes according to plan, we will be able to spend a couple of days visiting private ferneries, and perhaps accompanying the New Zealand members on an excursion - more details later.

CHRIS GOUDEY  
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

I am sure that all our members will agree that we have made great progress in this our first year as a specialist society. When we look back on our achievements since May, 1979, we can feel pleased to see how many of our earlier problems have been overcome, and how many of our plans have come to fruition.

Membership has risen steadily throughout the year, as word has spread, and we now number many interstate folk amongst our members. Although many members cannot travel to our meetings, we hope that the Newsletter keeps them in touch.

Our various field trips have proved most enjoyable and interesting; our latest trip was held on Queen's Birthday weekend, when Rod Hall led about twenty members on a walk along Sassafras Creek where we saw several varieties of ferns. Once again, we were lucky with the weather - only the slippery crack in places reminding us that it was winter and it had rained recently. After lunch, we looked around the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society's gardens, and the most pleasant walk was finished off by afternoon tea. Thanks, Rod, for a most enjoyable time!

Incidentally, this day gave us the opportunity to meet our Life Member, Roy Busby. Roy had cycled all the way from Templestowe, regarding the trip as part of the daily mileage he sets himself to cover! He has had a great interest in ferns, other native plants and bushwalking since early childhood - an interest which he combines with cycling. Since Roy started keeping records of his trips, he has covered over 598,000 miles and, if all goes to plan, will reach the 600,000 mile mark by 13th July, 1980. We were glad to meet Roy, and hope he can be present at more of our field trips.

For the help given to me on so many occasions over the past year, my thanks to all; may the next year be even more enjoyable for the members of the Fern Society of Victoria than the twelve months just gone!

IRENE BOLSTER  
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income for the month of June was as follows:

Subscriptions - \$36.00; Supper - \$6.00; Advertisements in Newsletter: \$20;  
Special Effort - \$45.60; Plant Sales - \$15.00; Sale of Badges - \$20.00.

Expenses were as follows:

Hire of hall - \$20.00; Newsletter and postage - \$158.77.

Balance: \$153.63.

ALBERT N. JENKINS  
Treasurer

RESUME OF TALKS GIVEN AT THE JUNE MEETING

1. FERNS ON LORD HOWE AND NORFOLK ISLANDS

Chris Goudey

Lord Howe Island is only seven miles long, and two-thirds of this area is taken up by two tall peaks, 2,800 ft. and 2,600 ft. high, respectively.

Despite its tiny size, there are as many types of tree fern to be found on Lord Howe Island as there are in New South Wales. In fact, if only one other variety is deemed to be a local fern - there would be more than in New South Wales!

Not only are there many ferns endemic to the Island, but other species from New Zealand and Australia also flourish there.

Editor's Note: During his talk, Chris showed the members present some fascinating slides to illustrate his (as is always to be expected) interesting information on these islands, and it is regrettable that we cannot share this section of the evening with our country and interstate members.

2. LIQUID FERTILIZERS

Keith Hutchinson

Almost every week, I am asked which is the best liquid fertilizer. After many years of trial and error, these are my findings:

AQUASOL: Possibly the largest seller of them all. Its potash content is very good. It must be used as directed, and always on moist soil. Results are better in warmer weather, but it can cause burn if not used carefully.  
Price: One of the cheapest on the market.

THRIVE: Very high nitrogen in the form of Urea. Rather harsh, so soft growth can be easily damaged. Soil must be moistened before use.  
Price: Quite cheap.

PHOSTROGEN: Very high potash content. Good deep green growth, firm and upright. Better used in warmer weather. Good for Hydroponics.  
Price: Rather expensive.

FISH EMULSION: Very good growth and depth of colour is obtained with this product. Good results all year round; its main drawback seems to be the smell, which lingers in the glasshouse for several days!  
Price: Medium range.

MAXICROP: Highest form of organic potash, and very high mineral content. Steady, firm growth which seems to withstand harsh conditions, including frost. The new Maxicrop with Urea added seems to be excellent, and improves cool weather growth.  
Price: Medium range.

NITROSOL: This has a blood & bone extract, which combines well with Urea and gives excellent results in warm or cool weather. Growth is very vigorous. This product can be used up to four times a week, without any burn - preferably with slightly moist soil. Price: Medium range.

LIQUID AQUASOL: Good results, but far too expensive.

OSMOCOTE & NUTRICOTE CONTROLLED RELEASE: Best used on plants with a well-developed root system, but rather expensive.

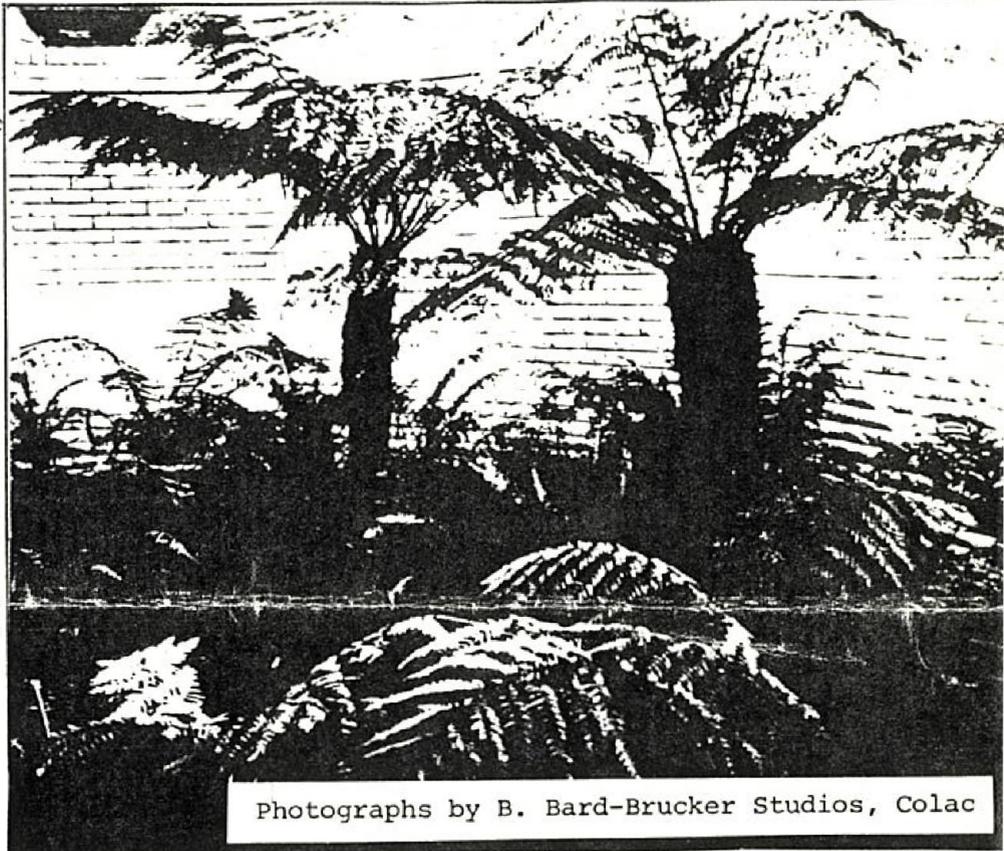
To sum up, NITROSOL and MAXICROP performed best, and when used in conjunction were excellent. AQUASOL was the most reasonable in price, and gave good results, but must be used strictly according to directions.

More than two years' deliberation and planning went into the design of the new St. Mary's Catholic Church at Colac.

The architect, Mr. Brian Dowling of Canberra, has incorporated into his design several unusual and most attractive features.

The building is basically a square, with the altar placed centrally along the eastern wall but set out into the Church, so that the congregation can gather round. Behind the Sanctuary is a small walled garden which is intended to become a Marian Shrine in the future; as the plants grow and cover the walls, the intention is that this area will become a beautiful quiet garden, forming a backdrop to the altar screen.

This garden area is planted with ferns and these have been provided by, and most attractively arranged by, Dr. and Mrs. George Evans of Johanna, who have been members of the Fern Society since its inception.

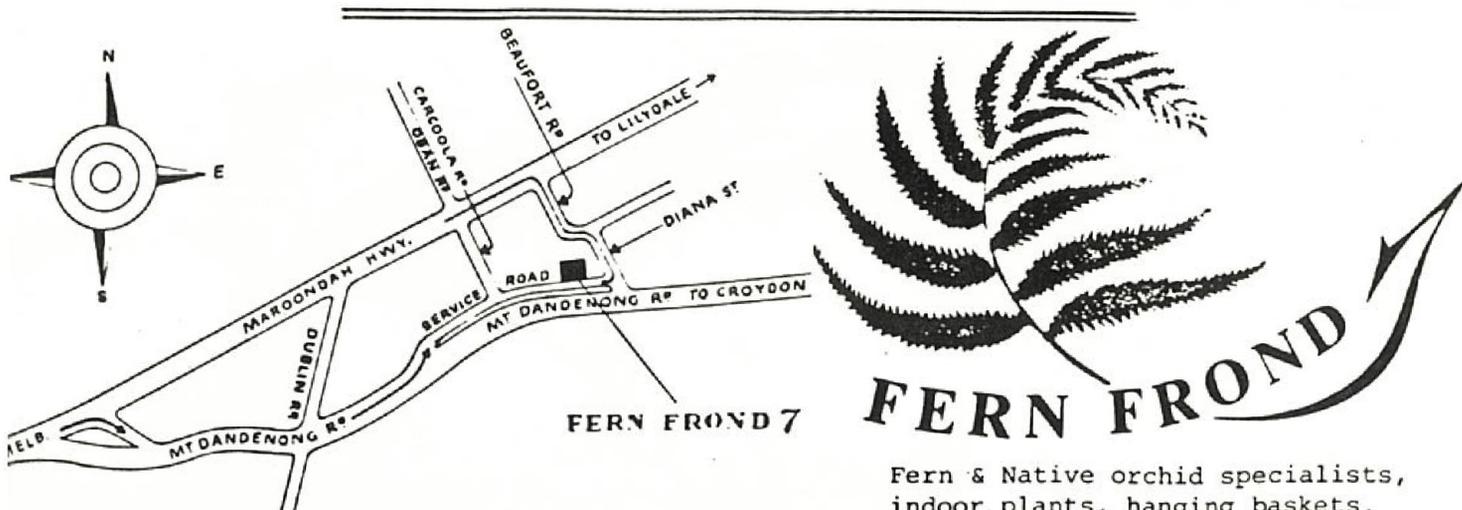


Photographs by B. Bard-Brucker Studios, Colac

The beautiful stained glass windows around the perimeter of the Church, together with the Tower window and the magnificent lantern, have been made by members of the parish community. The various pieces of wrought-iron work have also been fashioned by another parishioner and his co-workers. It is fitting that members of the parish have been able to use their varied talents in this beautiful church.

Anyone passing through Colac would find a visit to St. Mary's Church most rewarding.





LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Keith,

I would like to extend, on behalf of those who attended the excursion to Sassafras Creek, sincere thanks to Irene for providing afternoon tea. On a rather brisk afternoon, the hot 'cuppa' and scones were most welcome, and greatly appreciated by all.

Best wishes, (Sgd.) Rod Hill

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SPORE LIST: JULY, 1980

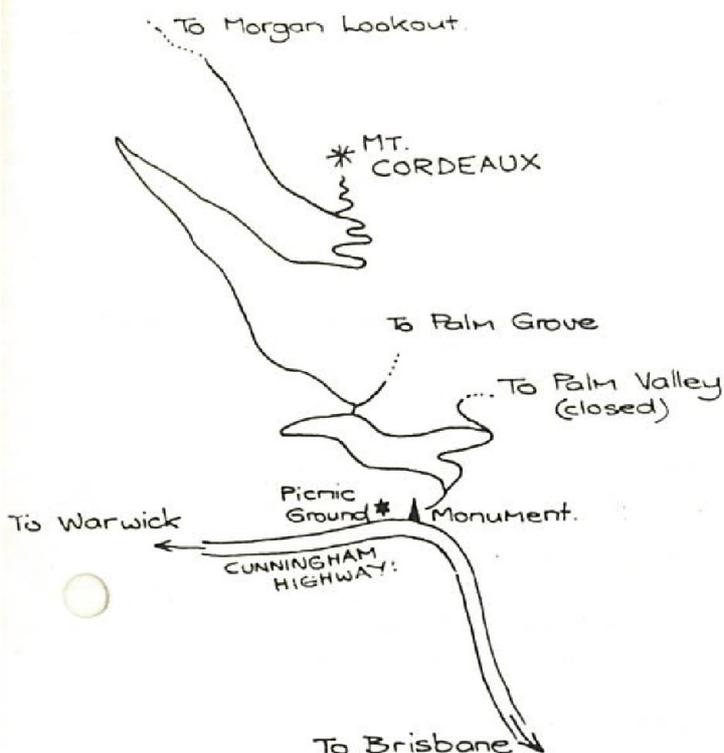
Spore samples may be purchased at monthly meetings, or by sending a list of your requirements, with a 20¢ stamp for each species requested, plus a single, stamped, self-addressed envelope, to Mr. R. Hill, 41 Kareela Road, Frankston, Vic., 3199. (Please do not request more than one packet of each species.)

SPECIES AVAILABLE (ADDITIONAL TO JUNE LIST)

Adiantum anceps (5-80)	Athyrium dilatatum (5-80)
A. cunninghamii (5-80)	Blechnum occidentale (5-80)
A. formosum (5-80)	Christella parasitica (5-80)
A. radiannum cv. Longton's Pride (5-80)	Cyathea leichhardtiana (5-80)
A. sp. (S.E. Qld) (5-80)	Dicksonia youngiae (5-80)

SPECIES NO LONGER AVAILABLE BY MAIL:

Adiantum gracillimum	Lastreopsis tinarooensis
Blechnum articulatum	Llavea cordifolia
Cyathea integra	Nephrolepis hirsutula
C. sp. (Taiwan)	



For those travelling inland to Brisbane, the lush rainforests of Cunningham's Gap, about 50 km east of Warwick, are a welcome contrast to the dryer scenery encountered along most of the Newell and Cunningham Highways.

There are numerous good walking tracks in this area, and it is well worth your while to break your journey and spend a few hours here. The walk up Mt. Cordeaux is exceptional and, although the track becomes almost impassable near the summit, the breathtaking views from sheer clifftops below the summit are among the most spectacular in Queensland.

The walk, along very well-graded tracks, takes about one hour, at a leisurely pace, from the picnic ground at the very top of the range to the cliff-tops. Most of the walk is through tropical forests of ferns, palms and strangler-figs (with glimpses of lyre-birds for the observant). Toward the summit, the rainforest gives way to rocky grasslands with giant spear-lilies, grass-trees, rock orchids and ferns (a number of the ferns being found as epiphytes on the

grass-trees). On the way back down, it is worth diverging along the Morgan L.O. track for about ten minutes, when you will again emerge from the grassy slopes to spectacular views from the cliffs on the other side of Mt. Cordeaux.

Ferns sighted: *Adiantum aethiopicum*, *A. formosum*, *A. hispidulum*; *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium falcatum*, *A. flabellifolium*, *A. nidus*; *Athyrium assimile*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Cheilanthes distans*, *C. sieberi* (plus one other species), *Cyathea australis*, *C. cooperi*; *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dixtymia brownii*, *Doodia aspera*, *D. caudata*; *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *L. microsora*, *L. munita*; *Microsorium diversifolium*, *M. scandens*; *Pellaea falcata nana*, *P. paradoxa*; *Platycterium bifurcatum*, *P. superbum*; *Polystichum formosum*, *Pteris termula*, *P. umbrosa*; *Pyrrhosia confluens*, *P. rupestris*.

# Maxicrop

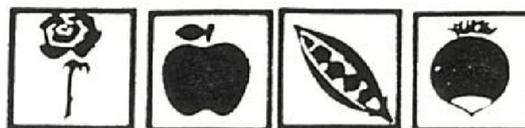
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P.O. Box 302, Bayswater Vic. 3153.

NEW SOUTH WALES: 4th Floor, 309 Pitt Street,  
Sydney, NSW 2000. Phone: (02) 235 8100.



DIARY DATES ..... mark them in your calendar now!

JULY 10TH : GARY LAWS will be our  
guest speaker

AUGUST 14TH : Annual General Meeting

SEPTEMBER 11TH : ROSEMARY ISAN, of the  
Department of Agriculture

OCTOBER 9TH : CHRIS GOUDEY, with an  
illustrated talk on  
New Zealand

NOVEMBER 13TH : BOB BONE will speak on  
the growing of ferns

DECEMBER 11TH : ALBERT JENKINS will  
talk on creating a  
mini rain forest

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

Time of Meeting: 8 p.m.

Venue: Burnley Horticultural  
School Hall, Burnley

Note: In the event of a power strike on the  
evening of any meeting, we regret that  
the meeting must be cancelled.