

THE
FERA SOCIETY



OF
VICTORIA
inc.

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST: PUBLICATION NO. VBH3411

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 8 SEPTEMBER 1986

DIARY DATES.

OCTOBER MEETING- THURSDAY 9TH

DAVID LLOYD FROM M.M.B.W. DRIP WATERING SYSTEMS.

Burnley Horticultural College Hall, Swan Street,
Burnley, 8.00 p.m.

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

BUYERS' GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIES.

VICTORIA.

ALLGOOD PLANTS & FERNS.

Main Road, Emerald, Victoria
Closed Mondays.
A.H. (059) 68 48 58
Retail

"FERN GLEN"

Garfield North, Victoria
Ferns - Wholesale & Retail
Visitors welcome
Phone: (056) 29 2375

BEASLEY'S NURSERY

195 Warrandyte Road,
Doncaster East
Phone: (03) 844 3335

COOL WATERS FERN NURSERY.

(Wholesale Propagators)
Beech Forest 3237
Phone: (052) 37 3283
Specializing in cool climate
native ferns.

THE FERN SPOT.

Cnr. Princes Hwy. and Potters Rd.
Longwarry Nth. Ph. (056) 299364
40 Min. from Dandenong.
Melway map 256 T6 open 7 days

R. & M. FLETCHERS FERN NURSERY

62 Walker Road, Seville, 3139
Phone: (059) 64 4680
(look for sign on Warburton Highway
300 m east of Seville Shopping Centre)
(Closed Tuesdays except Public Holidays)

AUSTRAL FERNS.

(Wholesale propagators)
Specialising in supplying retail
nurseries with a wide range of hardy
ferns - no tubes.
Phone: - 052 823084

VICTORIA.

MT. EVELYN FERN CENTRE.

63 York Road,
Mt. Evelyn
(Mail orders welcome)
Phone: 736 1729

ALLANS FLAT PLANT FARM.

Tomkins Lane.
Allans Flat.
(25 km south of Wodonga on the
Yackandandah Rd)
Specialising in ferns and
Indoor plants.
Open daily (except Wednesday)
and all public holidays.
Phone (060) 27 1375.

RIDGE ROAD FERNERY.

WEEAPROINAH. 3237
Specialising in Otway Native Ferns
Wholesale and Retail
Phone (052) 359 383

BEAUTY SPOT NURSERY.

Kings Road,
MARYSVILLE. Phone: (059) 633368

SEPTEMBER MEETING THURSDAY 11TH.

8.00 PM - BURNLEY HORTICULTURAL COLLEGE

SPEAKERS - TWO STAFF MEMBERS FROM C.I.G.

SUBJECT - THE FUTURE AND SAFETY IN PEST CONTROL.

UPWEY & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB - ANNUAL CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS SHOW.

At Upwey Hall, Monbulk Road, Upwey.

October 11th and 12th.

Organiser: Betty Allgood (059) 684858 (A.H.)

Betty is undertaking a fern display on behalf of our Society. She would appreciate and willingly accept any offers of assistance, and needs ferns for display and people to help supervise this display during the weekend.

WARRINGAL ORCHID SHOW.

At Heidelberg Technical School, Bell Street, West Heidelberg.

October 11th & 12th.

Organiser: Keith Hutchinson. Tel: 45 2997

SPECIAL EFFORT WINNERS.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Derek Griffiths | 6. Albert Ward. |
| 2. May Goschnick | 7. Mac Gregory |
| 3. Betty Duncan | 8. Wally Kennewell |
| 4. Ann Bryant | 9. Garnet Frost |
| 5. Betty Duncan | 10. Trevor Giddings |
| | 11. Mary Frost |

Kindest Regards,

Keith Hutchinson.

ANNUAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 1985 - 86.

With the task of incorporation finalized the Committee set out to make the year an enjoyable one for all members. Our general meetings proved successful with a variety of speakers and all activities and services progressing well. The major project of assisting with the stocking of the reconstructed Fern House at Ripponlea was undertaken with enthusiasm by all members, led by Chris Goudey, who supplied a range of rare ferns to be raffled, which combined with cash donations raised \$360.00. He then purchased many ferns and added to those donated by members, several car loads of excellent ferns were assembled.

Oliver Frost the curator of Ripponlea was delighted with the response and with his careful tending the project is progressing very successfully. We hope to visit the fernery for our December meeting.

NTH. VICTORIAN EXCURSION.

Paradise Falls, Norma's Fernery, Mary and Garnet Frosts were some of the places visited during this most enjoyable weekend. With an overnight stop at Noonameena Lodge, entertainment by the Buffalo Park Ranger and a delightful morning tea supplied by the Wangaratta Garden Club this excursion was a very pleasant experience.

FERN SHOW.

Our fern show proved to be our most successful to date. As the Herbarium was unavailable, Bob Lee and his Committee decided to hold it at the Nunawading Horticultural Centre, and with a lot of hard work the show was of a very high standard indeed. Many phone calls and letters of congratulations were received. Well done Fern Show Committee.

NEWSLETTER.

This very important part of our Society has been in the very capable hands of our Editor - Mac Gregory, who has put a lot of time into this job and has produced a good publication with the material available. Our committee hope that during the coming year we may assist by providing interesting and original articles.

Many thanks Mac.

NEWSLETTER TYPING.

Maureen Verhagen has given our Society an enormous boost. An excellent typist, Maureen volunteered to type our Newsletter each month and this is of great financial gain to us. With a husband and two children to look after Maureen can still make time available, and this could only be possible with the full co-operation of her husband Dirk who also assists at our monthly meetings. A sincere thank you to Maureen, Dirk and family.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Derek Griffiths handled the position of Secretary admirably. All correspondence was promptly dealt with and his efforts to find interesting speakers were untiring.

Albert Ward kept our finances in good order and assisted with the organization of our meetings.

Jean Trudgeon our membership secretary has put in many hours keeping our membership list up to date and with the assistance of Margaret Radley and Kath Brown addressed and mailed all our newsletters during the year.

David Radford manager of our lending library has kept this important aspect of our Society at a high level.

John Oliver our senior vice president is the man who keeps the computer listing of members and provides the labels each month for our newsletters.

Peter Goschnick has spent a great deal of time setting up our slide bank and organize our slide competition.

I wish to sincerely thank all these Committee members who have so willingly assisted me during the year.

Thanks also to Bob Lee, Ian Broughton and Doug Thomas for their constructive input to our meetings. Doug has transcribed all of our speakers talks for publication in our newsletter and as past president has always been there with a word of guidance or encouragement.

Thankyou Doug.

BOOK SALES.

Lorraine Goudey continued to look after our book sales until March this year when due to family commitments she tendered her resignation after almost seven years of dedicated work. We thank you most sincerely Lorraine.

SPORE BANK.

Joel Macher with able assistance from his wife Viv has kept our spore bank in a very efficient manner.

Thankyou both.

FERN TABLE, PATHOLOGY AND EXCURSION MANAGER.

Chris Goudey has again proved just what an important member of our Society he is. The excellence of his leadership in these fields is well known to all members and the rapidity with which his planned excursion to Tasmania was booked out is further proof.

Well done Chris.

FURTHER MEMBER SERVICES.

Albert Jenkins sales of discounted Maxicrop and allied products.

Bill Taylor - Sales Cashier.

Beth Ward and Jean Boucher our reliable supper hostesses.

Kath Brown and Margaret Radley special effort organizers.

John Oliver - Property Steward.

All deserve our hearty thanks.

RETIRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Jean Trudgeon, Kath Brown and Bob Lee.

After many years of service Jean is continuing with the task of Membership Secretary and Kath will assist our newsletter mailing team. We sincerely thank these ladies for their enormous contribution to our society and look forward to their continued support.

Bob Lee, a valuable member of our committee feels he can best serve our society as chairman of our show sub-committee an enormous task in which he has shown great dedication. We say thankyou Bob and appreciate your continued leadership in our society.

Bill Taylor also deserves recognition for his help. Bill is always there when he is needed and organized the S.G.A.P. Show last year.

Thanks Bill.

REQUESTS FOR SPEAKERS.

Our society received twenty six requests for guest speakers on ferns during the year. It was a little disappointing that we could only fill fifteen of these engagements but we thank the members for giving their time in this way.

CONCLUSION.

Our Society continues to function in a very friendly atmosphere. Attendances are steady and I feel as a committee we are endeavouring to stimulate interest, enjoyment, and knowledge to all fern lovers.

I thank all members for their attendance and support.

Your President,

Keith Hutchinson.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE FERNERY PLANTING AT RIPPONLEA BY OLIVER FROST.

Dear Keith,

This year is well into its second half and with spring planning uppermost in gardeners minds I realized that with the new spring one year will have elapsed since planting of the Ripponlea fernery was commenced. Accordingly, I thought it might prove of interest to your members if I were to furnish the Society with a report of progress in the fernery. I also enclose a separate list of genera and species for your records, which may prove useful in the future.

As you will doubtless agree, the growing season from September 1985 to June 1986 has been remarkable for 2 main reasons. On one hand, the lack of really hot days over the summer, and on the other hand- an almost total lack of hot north wind days during late spring and summer. How fortunate was this condition, providing as it did, an easy transition period for the newly planted ferns to a stage where they are more or less hardy. Always did I have the concern that some of the plants so generously donated to us, but coming from softer, more ideal conditions, might not accept the harsher conditions that is the lot of the outdoor fernery environment. This report then seeks to identify and record the progress of some of the donated plants, though obviously time and space does not permit me to include every plant.

Prior to the commencement of planting the area was heavily mulched with a mixture of wood chips, well rotted leaf mould, and course saw dust accompanied with a substantial dressing of Blood and Bone (with potash and trace elements added) at the rate of 6 ozs per sq. yard. This material was then dug into the soil and distributed evenly through the soil profile to a depth of 6 inches. Notwithstanding, and interestingly enough, existing and well established trees and terrestrial ferns rapidly showed a significant reaction to the rapid loss of nitrogen levels in the soil, a general yellowing - or rather a sharp paling - of all species became evident. To compensate for this temporary loss of nitrogen an application of higher rating nitrogen level Osmocote was made. Two further side dressings of Osmocote were made at six weekly levels and towards Autumn it could be said that nutritional levels in the fernery had stabilized - the usual deep green colour associated with most ferns had returned and now the healthy and strong growth of all the plants is evidence that conditions within the soil are now ideal.

Of the new plantings the following species of arboreal ferns seem to have been particularly successful and are growing very strongly; *Cyathea australis* ssp *norfolkiensis*, *C. robusta*, *C. medullaris*, *Cyathea robertsiana*, *C. dealbata* and *C. youngiae*. *Dicksonia squarrosa* has also established well. Especially pleasing is the splendid growth being made by *C. cunninghamii*, which is of course is the plant secured for Ripponlea through the efforts of the members who participated in the raffle. This fern is clearly very happy to be released from the confines of its relatively small container to its new position in the open garden and has showed its delight by throwing out new growth nearly twice as strong as previously.

Similarly, the terrestrial species have been found to delight in their new conditions. Of a special note is the growth shown by *Pellea rotundifolia*, *Doodia aspera* and *D. caudata*, *Angiopteris evecta*, *Blechnum fluviatile*, *Woodwardia fimbriata* and *W. orientalis*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Cyclorus palustris* var. *squamigera*, *Davallia canariensis* and *Dryopteris* sp.

As with any large scale planting and certainly as suggested by several experienced growers within the Fern Society, not all species of ferns have been entirely successful in establishing themselves. *Blechnum*

spicant has, as predicted, evidenced some rotting at its base, and *Adiantum raddianum* cv. 'Triumph' due no doubt to its very fine and willowy foliage, has proved unsuitable where overhead watering causes its foliage to weigh down and touch the soil and subsequently rot at the point of contact. *Athyrium nipponicum* var. *pictum*, also resented its (various) locations and struggles to maintain its existence.

Of much interest has been the rather unexpected prevalence of a large number of species of fungi which were first noted soon after the initial application of mulch and persisted throughout the summer and autumn and into the winter. These fungi are non parasitic, but are saprophytes and thrive under ideal conditions of moisture and organic food source. Indeed, many of the species, particularly the red agarics, are so colourful and seem to fit in so well with the ferns, that they are almost worthy of cultivation in their own right.

A fern related plant that has proliferated and obviously entirely at home in the new fernery is *Selaginella kraussiana*. Clearly, when one considers the vigour of the *Selaginella* and takes also into account the large number of fern spores germinating as is evidenced by the numbers of gametophytes visible in many of the rock crevices, the evidence is quite clear as to the suitability of the site for the successful cultivation of a large variety of fern types and allied species.

Keith, as always a sincere thought of appreciation to all that the fern society members achieved for Ripponlea is in the forefront of my mind, and as always I look to meeting anyone who may care to visit the property to see for themselves how the plants are developing.

I hope to see you soon,

Kind regards,

Oliver.

Book Review from Winter Edition Gardening News.

Maidenhair Ferns in Cultivation
 Christopher J. Goudey.
 Published by Lothian Publishing
 Co., 336 pages, hardcover,
 rrp \$59.95.

THE author, Chris Goudey, is well known in RHSV circles, both as an instigator and founding president of the Fern Society of Victoria, which position he occupied for three years; and as a popular fern speaker at the Society's Schools for Home Gardeners.

What many people associated with the RHSV or the Fern Society of Victoria may not have realised up to this point, is the experience and outstanding abilities of Chris in his chosen field of endeavor.

He has been growing, importing and raising ferns for many years and is responsible for the introduction of many rare and exotic ferns. His own collection contains more than 1000 species and cultivars and it is from the wealth of knowledge he has gained over the years that he has

drawn the information contained in this excellent book.

Chris is also responsible for the great majority of very high quality illustrations in the book.

Of all the ferns commonly grown in Australia, few have the attraction or appeal of the maidenairs, the genus *Adiantum*.

The bulk of the text in this recent publication forms an alphabetical listing of *Adiantum* species in cultivation, which includes sections on *A. raddianum* cultivars and *A. tenerum* cultivars.

Each species or cultivar has devoted to it a double page spread, which includes an accurate botanical description as well as some notes on the cultivation thereof.

The notes are accompanied by well defined color plates of individual fronds which are distinct enough to enable fairly reliable identification. Fronds are photographed against a pale blue/grey background which creates an excellent color contrast for distinguishing formation.

Chris Goudey writes clearly and accurately about this genus of the fern family — his sources being his own experience and communication with fern fanciers and experts worldwide. He attempts, and succeeds in most cases, to sort out the confusion which has occurred over the years as to which ferns are true maidenairs and what their correct names are.

His information on methods of propagation, insect and disease pests, hybridisation and growing requirements should be compulsory reading for anyone contemplating growing any of these ferns — many ancient myths are dispelled forever!

Perhaps, for the fancier already growing a few maidenair ferns, the most appropriate section is that listing species and cultivars suitable for specific climatic regions.

It is most pleasing to again note that an authoritative text on a plant genus can be produced and published by an Australian. In recent years, this country has really come to the fore in writing and releasing books written by our own experts for Australian conditions.

Now, with Chris Goudey's book, it is no longer necessary for those wishing to learn about maidenair ferns to turn to texts written for climates other than our own.

Noelle Weatherley

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1986.

Members Funds

As at 1st, July 1985	7,937.84
Add Surplus for 1986	<u>5,744.24</u>
Total membership funds	<u>\$13,682.08</u>

Represented by:-

Current Assets

Cash at Bank	7,925.87
Cash on Deposit - Investment Account	4,720.21
Cash on hand - Fern sales	<u>100.00</u>
	12,746.08

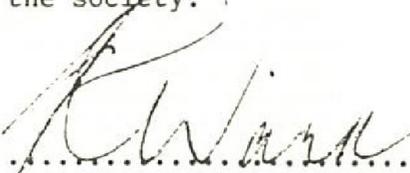
Fixed Assets

Library	448.00
Plant and equipment	<u>488.00</u>
	936.00

\$13,682.08

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The attached statements are drawn up to show the financial position of The Fern Society of Victoria Incorporated according to the information at my disposal and as shown by the books of accounts and vouchers of the society.



.....H.R. Ward A.C.A.

20.8.86 Dated.

THE FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
30TH JUNE, 1986.

Receipts

Library	55.00	
Membership	3,318.63	
Spore bank	388.60	
Commission on plant sales	414.48	
Interest - Current Account	37.19	
- Investment Account	372.71	
Badge sales	15.10	
Special efforts	452.90	
Advertising - Newsletter	40.00	
S.G.A.P. - Commission on sales	236.26	
Donation	6.58	
Tea money	45.60	
Journal sales	270.50	
Show proceeds 1985	1,051.40	
Show proceeds 1986	<u>5,233.70</u>	
		11,938.65

Payments

Newsletter	3,301.83	
Postage & P.O. Box rental	944.99	
Company seal	52.00	
Corporate Affairs	35.00	
Meeting hall rental	796.00	
Honourariums - Newsletter	300.00	
Slide Bank	68.35	
Speaker gratuities	45.00	
Secretary & executive expenses	138.17	
Hall hire - 1985 Show	183.00	
Tea costs	32.24	
Subscription R.H.S. & L.A.I.F.S.	53.00	
Federal & State Duties	10.83	
Depreciation on assets	<u>234.00</u>	
		<u>6,194.41</u>
<u>Funds on hand as at 30th June, 1986</u>		<u>\$ 5,744.24</u>



BEAUTY SPOT GARDENS
 Incorp. Beauty Spot Nursery
 Kings rd MARYSVILLE.

Open to the public from Friday 10th October to Sunday 19th October inclusive for a spectacular show of Spring flowering exotics.

- * Just an hours drive from the eastern suburbs of Melb. thru magnificent fern country to picturesque MARYSVILLE.
- * Rare and unusual plants amongst the exotics and the extensive range of ferns.
- * Attend an interesting fern demonstration- Sat 11th and Sun 12th October between 2pm and 3pm and discuss your ferns with our expert.
- * Thousand of plants for sale.
- * Delivery service available to many Melb. suburbs and Vic. towns.
- * Browse thru our pottery and craft rooms.
- * A memorable day's outing or perhaps stay overnite.
- * Busses by appointment please.

Modern-day amenities at all modes of accomodation are of high standard and beautiful scenery on bushwalks offers enjoyment for all ages.

One of the loveliest walks is to Beauty Spot, an area crowded with ancient tree ferns flanking a small stream. Gorgeous colored parrots, yellow-tailed black cockatoos, wrens and fantails abound while pink heath, wild violets and sun orchids light the forest.

Nearby, Steavenson Falls are beautiful by day and an unforgettable sight sparkling in the floodlights at night. The Cumberland Valley, where the worlds tallest hardwood trees grow, is worth the short drive. Here too, ancient green mosses and tree ferns flourish deep in the cool, humid forest.

MARYSVILLE also offers trout fishing or a round of golf on the picturesque 18 hole golf course, horse riding, grass skiing and bicycle riding.

Maureen and Corey Slusser. (059-633368)

OFFICE BEARERS:

PRESIDENT: Keith Hutchinson, 17 Grandview Grove, Rosanna	3084
Telephone:	45 2997
TREASURER: Albert Ward, 82 Grandview Grove, Rosanna	3084
Telephone:	459 4392
SECRETARY: Derek Griffiths, 8 Susan Court, East Keilor	
Telephone:	336 3157
BOOK SALES: Barry White, 24 Ruby Street, West Essendon	3040
Telephone:	337 9793
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Jean Trudgeon P.O. Box 45, Heidelberg West	3081
Telephone:	459 4859
EDITOR: Mac Gregory, 93 Mountainview Parade, Rosanna	3084
Telephone:.	458 2819
SPORE BANK: Joel Macher, 31 Anora Crescent, Mulgrave.	3170

PRESIDENTS REPORT.

It is with pleasure that I enter my second term as your President knowing that the Committee elected at our A.G.M. is first class and full of enthusiasm. I welcome new members Joy Horman, John Hodges, Terrance Turney, Trevor Gidding, and welcome back Bernadette Blastock who returns to our Committee with the hope that the coming year may be an enjoyable and fruitful experience.

SLIDE COMPETITION.

After great deliberation the committee decided on joint winners Moira Gascard and Julien Basser, with two excellent slides. The overall quality of the slides was excellent and our Society gained over 100 slides for our slide bank.

NEWSLETTER.

To assist our Editor Mac Gregory we hope to prepare a list of subjects on ferns and their culture, from which members may like to write short articles, building a bank of material for Mac to call upon.

DECEMBER MEETING.

Oliver Frost curator of Ripponlea writes that the fernery is now progressing well and on Peter Goschnicks suggestion we are to have our breakup meeting on Sunday December 7th in Ripponlea Gardens at 2.00 p.m. More details later.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS.

We are exhibiting ferns in the following shows and need help. If you live in the proximity of any of the venues please contact the organiser and offer your assistance.

S.G.A.P. MAROONDAH GROUP'S WILDFLOWER SHOW.

At Ringwood Cultural Centre - Mines Road, Ringwood. 13th & 14th September.
ORGANISER - Ian Broughton (059) 646402

We have been asked to give Australian ferns prominence in the display although it is by no means restricted to native ferns. We need help from anyone who is prepared to lend ferns for the display or to supervise the display. This is an important promotion for our Society so please be involved.



Maxicrop

"Goodness from the sea"

- * Contains over 60 elements and minerals
- * Safe and easy to use.
- * Made from fresh growing seaweed.
- * Ideally suited for ferns
- * Maxicrop is available from nurseries and other places where garden products are sold.

Maxicrop

4/375 Bayswater Rd., Bayswater. Vic. 3153.

P.O. BOX 302, Bayswater, Vic. 3153. Tel. Melb. (03) 720 2200

FOR SALE

AZALEAS

Azaleas - all you need.
Over 60 varieties, all sizes.

Camellias & Rhodos also.

BILL & JOAN TAYLOR
1 Princetown Road
MT. WAVERLEY 3149
Phone: 277 4310

CAN YOU NAME THIS FERN?

ANSWER IN OCTOBER NEWSLETTER.



BUYERS' GUIDE TO FERN NURSERIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

JIM & BERYL GEEKIE FERN NURSERY

Wholesale - Retail
6 Nelson Street
Thornleigh 2120
Phone: (02) 84 2684
By Appointment

MARLEY'S FERNS

5 Seaview Street
Mt. Kuring-gai 2080
Phone: (02) 457 9168

QUEENSLAND

MORANS HIGHWAY NURSERY

Box 467, Woombye, 4559
1 km north of Big Pineapple
Turn right into Kell Road, Woombye
Wholesale & Retail
Phone: (071) 42 1613