

FERN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER

Volume 35, Number 1

January/February 2013



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

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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.

President's Note

I trust everyone enjoyed Christmas, and celebrating the opening of the New Year. And for those who take a break away from home at this time of year, we also hope that goes well. We tend not to move too far away from home during the hot weather, to look after things here – including the ferns – as best as we can.

We did do a number of forest walks in spring (and we'll try to get some in during summer too). There's always lots of interesting things to discover, or rediscover. We spent a long day in the Warburton area in late spring, and were inspired enough to plan a FSV visit (or 2, or even 3) there – depending on how long a visit members might wish to make - as there's lots to see and enjoy. One of the advantages, of course, is that the journey to the district is not too long, so it's convenient to make a visit of a few hours duration.

Just to refresh the idea of FSV again participating in a weekend customer- advisory workshop for a selected plant nursery, I did investigate setting up an invitation from one of our Warrandyte nurseries, but by mutual agreement we decided that it was getting a bit late in the spring to arrange for 2012. But we agreed to try to arrange something for next year. Our interest is, of course, that it's one prospective way of being noticed by people who may have interest in FSV membership.

Please let Committee member know early if you may have potential interest in participating – this would be a great help to us in planning. If you have any suggestions for nurseries which may be good prospects for us to approach for such an opportunity, please let us know.

I, the rest of our Committee members, and our honorary auditor Bernadette Thompson, were honoured to be re-confirmed in their FSV roles at the 2012 Annual General Meeting. With members' collaboration, we look forward to pursuing continued interesting and worthwhile activities for the Society and satisfaction for all participating in them.

Barry Stagoll

Cover image: *Adiantum formosum*. Photo: Warren Simpson. See article pp. 7-10 in this issue.

Editor's Note

In order to make best use of our colour centre pages, I have used Warren Simpson's article there in this issue, and have had to hold back some photographs that Barry Stagoll passed on of his excursion to the Warburton area (referred to above in his President's Note). The photos, by Barry's son Wayne, will be an enticing taste of a planned FSV excursion, so I decided they needed pride of place in the next issue.

The BBC documentary How to Grow a Planet, which will be the main item for the February meeting (see next page) is by one of my absolute favourite presenters. Iain Stewart is in my opinion an absolutely brilliant populariser of science and as always with the BBC, the images his team have assembled are fabulous. Lush and spectacular evocation of the plant world. If you haven't seen it, Thursday 21 Feb is your chance to remedy that. If you have seen it, you will know it is well worth repeated viewings from a pteridophyte perspective.

Due to the vagaries of timing over the Christmas/New Year period, the second issue comes hot on the heels of the first, so if you have any material to complete the issue, please send it to me before the deadline (to be timely with production of the March/April issue I will need any content from you before the end of February).

Best wishes to all. As I write this, our gardens have just had a few millimetres of rain, but that was the first moisture since about October. Disasterous floods up North while dry as dust down South. Just another Australian summer...

Robin Wilson

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Fern Society of Victoria meetings — 2013

8 pm Thursday 21 February 2013

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

Viewing of the BBC Documentary How to Grow a Planet

(emphasis on the content about the evolutionary importance of the earliest living organisms, including the ferns) and discussion.

Fern competition: *Blechnum*

2:30 pm, Sunday 17 March 2013

At the garden of Gay and Barry Stagoll, Mirrabooka

170 Knees Rd. Park Orchards (located centre, Melways Map 35)

Phone 9844 1558, Mobile 0411 525890

Growing Ferns in Hanging Baskets

viewing and discussion (participants invited to bring own plants along).

Fern competition: Hanging basket

NB there will be NO Thursday meeting at the Kevin Heinze Centre in March 2013

Meetings for April and beyond in 2013 will be notified in forthcoming Newsletters.

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

Book review: "Ferns of Southern Africa, a Comprehensive Guide" by N.Crouch, R. Klopper, J. Burrows and S. Burrows

Review author: Barry White

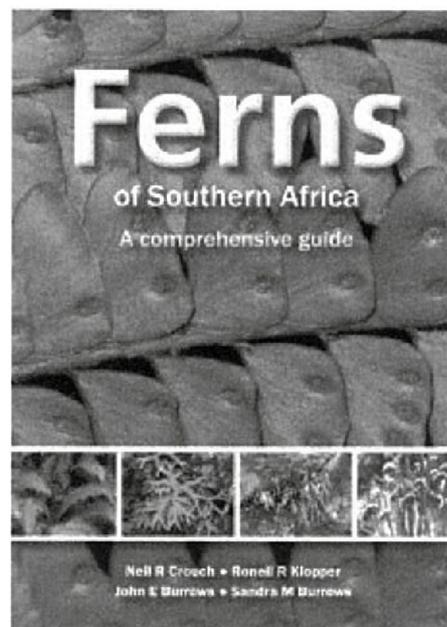
This paperback, published in 2011, lives up to its name. It covers 301 species in South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana. It is profusely illustrated with 1800 photos, with each species having about six photos showing habitat, whole plant, frond detail, sori and where appropriate, the rhizome.

Each species has a double page spread with a page of photos and a page of text. The text provides the derivation of the name, a good description, comment on the differences from similar species, the distribution and finally some general notes and a comment on the ecology of the species.

There are about 20 species common to South Africa and Australia.

It is interesting to note that *Cyathea cooperi* is becoming invasive there as it has in Hawaii.

The book is currently on sale through various online outlets, such as www.amazon.com for \$US31.50 and www.bookdepository.co.uk/ for \$Aus37.75 including postage.



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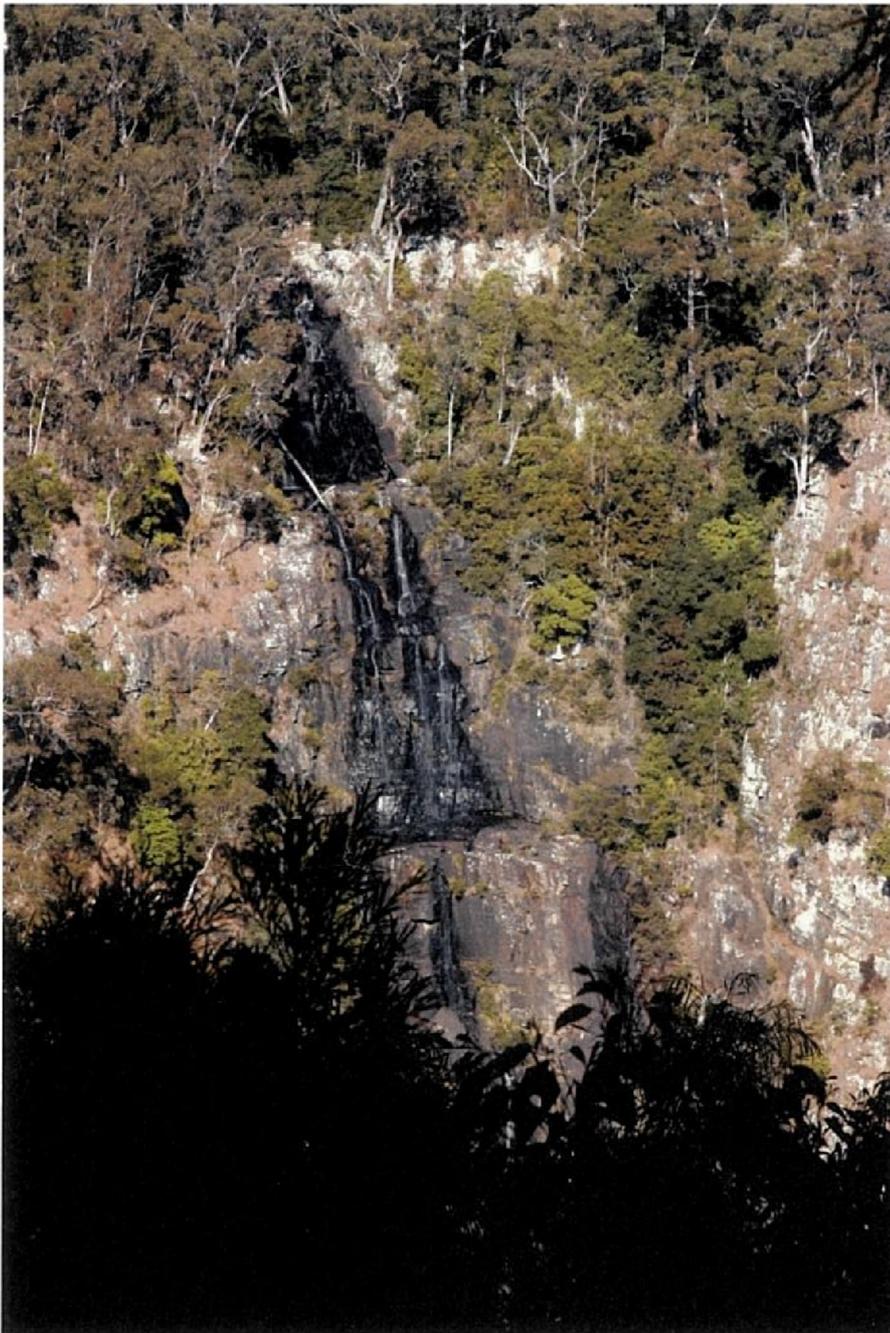
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A descent into ravine country, or Sliding the slippery slope
A talk first presented to FSV at the November 2012 meeting
Warren Simpson

My talk to the Fern Society of Victoria for the November 2012 meeting was based on slides shown from a trip up to the Kempsey area of NSW, showing some of the highlights that we had on our holiday. The notes and photographs that follow document that trip...

Our first bush trip was up into the Main Range behind Kempsey to look for a particular orchid. This took me and a mate to Kookaburra Lookout (starting point for the Kookaburra Walk) before the big descent began.



Kookaburra Lookout, start of Kookaburra walk. Photo: Warren Simpson.

Descent into Ravine Country (continued)

Warren Simpson

This involved walking/sliding down a scree slope for over an hour, stopping to photograph some of the ferns and orchids seen on the way. Orchid wise, these included a number of *Dendrobium* spp. (epiphytes) *Dockrillia* spp. (epiphytes), *Bulbophyllum* spp. (epiphytes), *Liparis* spp.

(lithophytes) and *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora* (epiphytes), growing both epiphytically and lithophytically. A number of *Dendrobium* and *Dockrillia* plants were observed growing lithophytically, having successfully attached to the rocks after falling from the plants overhead where they would normally grow. With the near constant air movement on these scree slope, they thrive on the rocks when in most situations they would die having fallen to the ground.



above: *Dictyima brownii*

below: *Doodia* sp. Photos: Warren Simpson.



above: *Arthropteris tenella*

below: *Pteris umbrosa*. Photos: Warren Simpson.



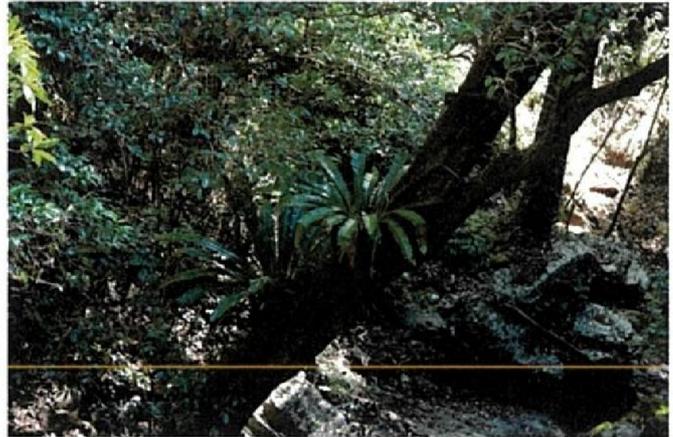
Descent into Ravine Country (continued)

Warren Simpson



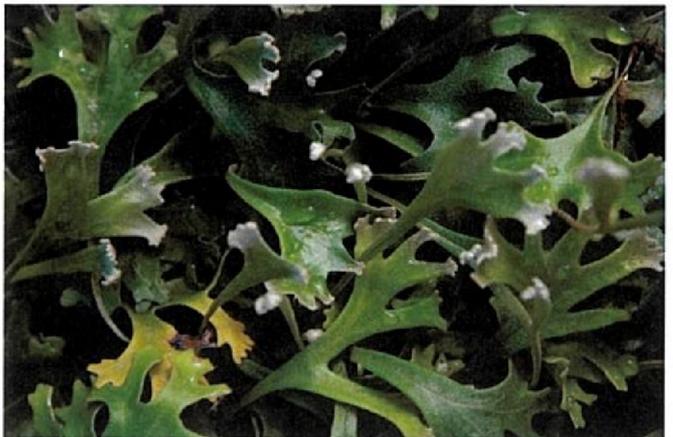
above: *Microsorium scandens*

below: *Adiantum hispidulum*. Photos: Warren Simpson.



above: mixed ferns

below: *Pyrrhosia rupestris* cv tunstall. Photos: Warren Simpson.



Ferns noted and photographed include *Dictymia brownii*, *Doodia* sp., *Arthropteris tenella*, *Pteris umbrosa*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Adiantum formosum* and *Adiantum hispidulum*. *Sticherus* and other ferns were also noted but not photographed. There was a definite change in the fern flora down the slope with those seen at the top not noted at the bottom, with the reverse also applying, except for *Arthropteris tenella*, which was found most of the way down the slope.

We eventually arrived at the creek at the bottom of the slope and observed the orchid *Sarcochilus aequalis*, which was the main purpose of this trip, growing along the creek in much smaller numbers

and smaller plants than what my mate recalled, indicating that the creek had probably been subjected to some heavy rain and flooding over the years since his last visit to this part of the creek. A range of the above orchids were found on the plants along the creek, with *Dockrillia fairfaxii* being in flower. Some of the above ferns were growing on the creek banks along with the birds nest fern, *Asplenium australasicum* growing on some of the trees. A bit of a recovery session followed before the climb back up began.

Most of the other side trips done were orchid related, some of which had an interesting fern element, including our visit to Tinonee Orchid Nursery where Two crested forms of *Pyrrhosia rupestris* are grown. These plants are obviously

Descent into Ravine Country (continued)

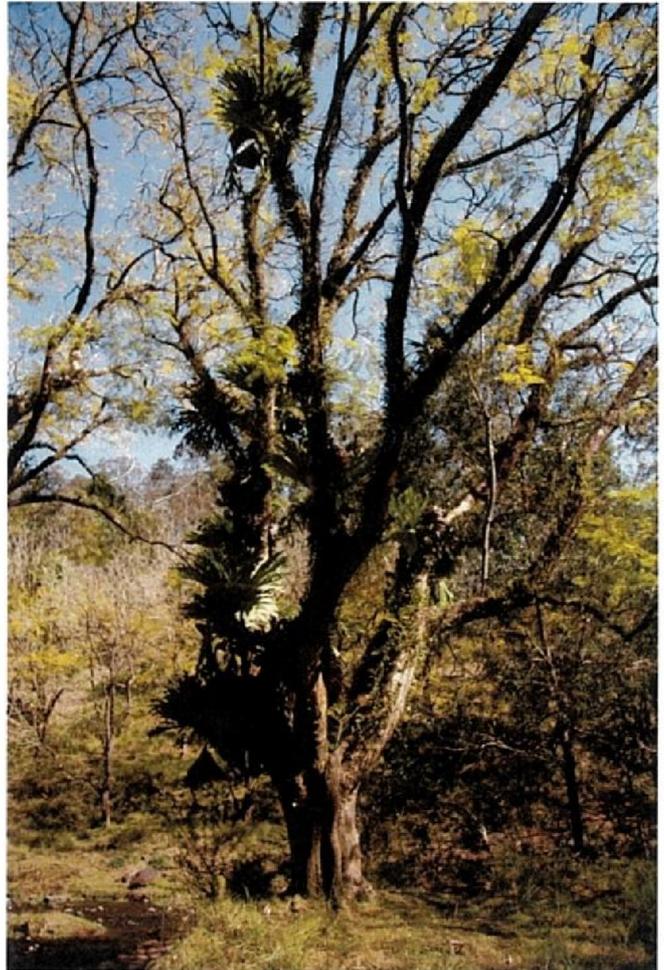
Warren Simpson



above: *Lecanopteris sinuosa* (Ant Fern)

below: Jacaranda with *Platycerium superbum*.

Photos: Warren Simpson.



Jacaranda with epiphytes. Photo: Warren Simpson.

different and go by the clonal names of “Tunstall” and “Samson’s Crest”. A plant of the Ant Fern *Lecanopteris sinuosa* is also grown here. Likewise a trip from Toms Creek via Comboyne to the Macadamia farm at Lorne revealed a couple of Jacaranda’s covered in ferns and orchids with some magnificent Stags, *Platycerium superbum*, being very obvious. These would have been up to 1.5 meters across. Five or six fern spp and orchid spp were growing on these trees with hardly any spare branch room available for more plants to fit.

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Transplanting a *Cyathea cooperi*

Barry White

These notes describe the transplanting a stump of *Cyathea cooperi* 'Brentwood'

Transplanting stumps of *Dicksonia antarctica* is the norm but *Cyathea* species are more of a challenge. *Cyathea cooperi* 'Brentwood' is a more vigorous form with paler fronds and scales.

This specimen was planted in the wrong spot and had to go. It was cut off near the base, all the fronds were removed and the stump placed in a pot. As the new fronds emerged they were reduced in size so as not to exhaust the reserves in the trunk. This trimming of the fronds continued for twelve months along with quite regular watering.

The photos show the current plant and the root development prior to re-potting. Factors favouring the result are the young nature of the plant and the fact that the cut was near the base.



above: *Cyathea cooperi* new root development
below: *Cyathea cooperi* in pot with trimmed fronds. Photos: Barry White.



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Recent and not-so-recently published Fern Books

Robin Wilson

In recent years I have been noticing some publications on ferns from a variety of sources that seem to have escaped our editorial attention. I'm not sure how many of the following are in the FSV library, but that can be discovered by a chat with our librarian (contact details on the inside cover of each Newsletter, or come along to a meeting). I'm sure the FSV would be happy to consider requests for purchase of any that we don't have already, just let one of the Committee

members know. These are some that I have noticed, please let me know of any that I have missed in recent years and I will make addenda in future issues. I suspect we have had mention of the BPS publications, perhaps in years prior to my editorship, but a reminder will do no harm. I hope to publish review of some of these in future issues.

Rickard, Martin (2003) *Ferns. RHS Wisely Handbook*. Publisher Cassell Illustrated and the Royal Horticultural Society; London. 96 pp.

- *A bargain, my copy from an on-line supplier was less than \$10 including postage.*

Rickard, Martin (2006) *Gardening with Ferns*. David & Charles, Newton & Abbot, UK. 128 pp.

- *Haven't seen this yet.*

Sambamurty, A.V.S.S. (2005) *A Textbook of Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Paleobotany*. Publisher: I K International Publishing House Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi. 584 pp.

- *A technical tome aimed at Indian tertiary students.*

Dyce, J.W., Sykes, R.W. & Rickard, M.H. (eds; 2005) *Polystichum Cultivars - Variation in the British Shield Ferns*. British Pteridological Society Special Publication No. 7. 100 pages.

Wardlaw, A.C. & Leonard, A. (eds; 2005) *New Atlas of Ferns & Allied Plants of Britain & Ireland*. British Pteridological Society Special Publication No. 8. 98 pages.

- *Surely a vital travel companion for any fern lover visiting the British Isles.*

Crouch, N.Klopper, R., Burrows, J. Burrows, S. (2011) *Ferns of Southern Africa: A Comprehensive Guide*. Publisher Struik Nature, South Africa, 760 pp.

- *See Barry White's review, page 6 this issue.*

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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 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 kuhni</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>Platycterium bifurcatum</i> 4/11
<i>Anemia tomentosa</i> 8/08	<i>Cyathea rebecca</i> (crested) 9/10	<i>Platycterium bifurcatum</i> 'Venosum' Mt Lewis 10/07
<i>Angiopteris evecta</i> 11/09	<i>Cyrtomium caryotideum</i> 8/10	<i>Platycterium 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. <i>congrua</i> 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 biaurita</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 watsii</i> 9/11	<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i> 6/10	<i>Pteris umbrosa</i> 1/12
<i>Blechnum wurururum</i> 7/11	<i>Lastreopsis nephrodioides</i> 4/12	<i>Revwattsii fragile</i> 3/11
<i>Cheilanthes myriophylla</i> 3/12	<i>Lastreopsis rufescens</i> 3/11	<i>Runohra adiantiformis</i> (Cape form) 2/08
<i>Chingia australis</i> 8/11	<i>Lastreopsis tenera</i> 3/11	<i>Runohra 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 brightiae</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		

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