

THE SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS – FERN STUDY GROUP

FOR SYDNEY ZONE AND THEREABOUTS MEMBERS

A very pleasant meeting at Dr. Ted (not Jim) Craig's home – where we were quite overwhelmed by his wife's hospitality – gave us the opportunity to discuss several ideas and we agreed:

1. To meet about every 3 months at various members houses, have a look at their ferns and how they are growing them, etc... Les and Tess Taylor immediately offered their home for the next meeting on –
SUNDAY 20TH JUNE at 2PM at 4 Prospect St., BLACKTOWN.
(Please phone Tess – 621 5840 – if you are coming).
2. To arrange field days and/or outings to areas of special interest. Further to this, BOB COVNEY from the Herbarium has agreed to lead any excursions and will be coming to our next meeting. Bob is an "expert" on N.S.W ferns, so this is really great news.
3. To suggest to Steve that other areas where there are sufficient people should similarly get together and function to suit their own circumstances. If we all report our activities to Steve and through him hear what others are doing, we could come up with some interesting results.
4. Geoff Edwards accepted the responsibility for organizing our fern display at the SGAP Exhibition, Kings School, on the 11th and 12th September. Will you please contact him, (449 1414) and tell him what you can do to help – perhaps with setting up the display and/or manning it for a period during the Exhibition.
5. Help for Ray Best was discussed. (1) He is always glad to receive fresh spores, (2) We are considering having his original folder on collecting and growing spores reprinted so that this can be sent out with enquiries about growing ferns and thus save him writing letters. Does anyone have printing facilities available or any suggestions how this can be done to minimize cost?
6. A suggestion that the Study Group should endorse "AAFern of the Year" will be passed on to Steve. A suggestion that the Study Group could perhaps provide "a panel" for a combined talk on ferns, including a display of ferns and perhaps some for sale, for a Region Meeting was shelved for a year when we will have more knowledge, more ferns and be in a better position to make a success of this.

The outing to Sonters' Nursery was most impressive with double the number expected attending. Val had prepared afternoon tea in her usual hospitable manner, but with so many people it proved impractical – instead most members went away laden with ferns! The sheer quantity of

ferns produced from spores under controlled and intensive conditions was almost overwhelming. It was truly a memorable and fascinating day.

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Gerry Parker
(Fern Study Group Co-ordinator??)

P.S. A review of many fern families is at present taking place and we can expect to see some name changes. The well known Birds-nest Fern, the Australian species of which was known as Asplenium nidus is now A. australasicum.