



ASSOCIATION of

*S.G.A.P. Fern Study Group*

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**LEADER** : Peter Hind, 41 Miller Street, Mount Druitt, 2770  
**SECRETARY** : Vacant  
**TREASURER** : Joan Moore, 2 Gannet Street, Gladesville, 2111  
**SPORE BANK**: Barry White, 24 Ruby Street, West Essendon, 3040

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PENDING APPOINTMENT OF A SECRETARY, PLEASE DIRECT MATTERS FOR NEWSLETTER AND ALL CORRESPONDENCE (OTHER THAN ITEMS FOR THE TREASURER) TO THE LEADER AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

**'AUSTRALIAN FERNS - GROWING THEM SUCCESSFULLY'**

We have had no word varying previous advice that our long planned book 'Australian Ferns - Growing them Successfully' will be released in August. Watch for further news and hopefully information from author, member Calder Chaffey, regarding distribution.

**POSITION VACANT - SECRETARY**

As advised last Newsletter, Moreen Woollett has relinquished the position of Secretary. The Secretary normally handles the Group's correspondence and collates items for the Newsletter, arranges its typing, printing and distribution. The Leader is willing to discuss the possible sharing of some of the duties by more than one person.

Although the Secretary was previously located in Sydney, duties may be arranged and communication ordered in a way that would enable the function to be carried out from any other urban location in Australia. To volunteer to undertake any of the Secretary's duties or to obtain more information about the position, please contact the Leader.

**HIGH IN THE SKY - WHY? The Natural Positioning of Platyceriums**

Contributed by Geoff Simmons

Except for Platycerium bifurcatum ssp veitchii which grows normally on rocks, the Australian species of these ferns are perched high in trees. Consequently, a fern enthusiast taking a stroll through forests containing these ferns risks ending up with a stiff neck due to craning the head heaven-wards rather than looking lower down at eye level or at the forest floor.

This poses the question.- why do they grow at great height naturally when they grow quite well in shade houses and other eye level places way from their natural habitats. Has anyone studied this?

How would you rank the importance of the following reasons, numbering (1) the most relevant?

- The amount of light is greater near the canopy
- The temperature zone (cooler) is more suitable for sporulation and fern growth
- Water run off from leaves not far above is more reliable
- Debris and other sources of nutrients are more plentiful
- Forks and branching of trees at higher levels offer more niches for germination of spore
- Once a single plant is established, spore dispersal is more likely to produce a colony within the vicinity of the parent plant
- Are they less exposed to destructive animals and parasites at high levels than at lower sites
- Is wind movement more favorable than the still air at lower levels, e.g., by drying out moisture after rain
- Any other reason (state)

Does this knowledge help the fern grower to grow platyceriums more successfully?

## HYBRIDS AND VARIANTS

Contributed by Geoff. Simmons

Since 1754 when the first propagation from spores was described, geneticists have been intrigued by hybridization and variation (expressions of genetic potential and mutants) in the fern world.

One of the early thoughts was that hybrids were infertile and variants fertile. The occurrence of pteridophyte hybrids interested I.W.Knobloch who produced a book on this subject as Vol. 5 No. 4 (Biological Series) publication of the Museum of Michigan State University. From an examination of available evidence he obtained data on 291 examples. Of these 73% were sterile and 27% fertile or partly so.

Sowing spores of different species together is known to produce hybrids. This comes about in spite of the fact that male and female sex organs occur on the same prothallus. It seems that self-fertilisation is not the rule and when it does occur the result may not be a viable plant.

My interest in this arose on reading in the last Newsletter (March 1999) that spores of two varieties of *Cyathea cooperi*, viz. Brentwood and Cinnamon, were available and that two plants of *C.cooperi var Revolvulens* that I obtained in 1993, never seem to have sori.

This raised several questions.

- a. What are the named varieties in Australia
- b. How did they originate - who produced them
- c. What is the status of their fertility
- d. Do any hybrids of *Cyathea*s exist in Australia and what of their fertility
- e. Details of propagation, e.g., do spring varieties come true to form.

PS: Even without the rapid advances in genetics, my knowledge of the field of genetics is superficial. This is even more so in respect to the jargon and theories of fern genetics. However, I would be happy to supply a reference on the subject if anyone is interested.

### **SPORE BANK**

Spore is available free of charge from Barry White, 24 Ruby St., West Essendon, Victoria, 3040. Phone (03) 9337 9793, e-mail [barry\\_white1@msn.com.au](mailto:barry_white1@msn.com.au).

When ordering, please include a stamped addressed envelope.

The letter "B" indicates spore collected in the bush. The area of collection is available on request.

Spore donations are always welcome, including fresher samples of ones already on the list. Thank you to Rose Bach, Neville Cawford, Ron Robbins, John Robertson, and Danny Vkrlic for spore donations.

*Arachniodes aristata* 8/98, *Asplenium aethiopicum* 5/97, *A. australasicum* 5/98, *A. milnei* 9/97 B, *Blechnum camfieldii* 10/97, *B. chambersii* 5/99 B, *B. fluviatile* 2/99 B, *B. howeanum* 9/97 B, *B. minus* 12/98 B, *B. patersonii* 3/98 B, *Cyathea australis* 5/97 B, *Cyathea cooperi* 1/98, *C. cooperi* 'Brentwood' /98, *C. howeana* 9/97 B, *C. leichhardtiana* 2/98, *C. macarthuri* 9/97 B, *C. robusta* 2/98, *C. woolliana* 3/97, *Dennstaedtia davallioides* 2/98, *Dicksonia youngii* 10/98, *Histiopteris incisa* 5/97 B, *Lastreopsis acuminata* 9/98, *L. nephrodioides* 9/97 B, *Microlepia speluncae* 5/98, *Microsorium pustulatum ssp. howensis* 9/97 B, *Pellaea falcata* 5/97, *Platycterium bifurcatum* cv. Hilo, *P. bifurcatum* cv. Hula Hands /99, *P. bifurcatum* cv. Roberts /99, *P. bifurcatum* var. *venosa* "Mt. Lewis" /99, *P. bifurcatum* cv. Willincki Scofield /99, *P. hillii* /99, *P. superbum* 6/98, *P. superbum* (Cairns) /99, *Polystichum australiense* 5/98, *P. formosum* 5/97, *Psilotum nudum* 9/97 B, *Pteris umbrosa* 6/98, *Rumohra adiantiformis* 5/97 B, *Sticherus urceolatus* 3/99 B.

### **AUSTRALIAN FERNS FOR SALE AT THESE LOCATIONS**

The nurseries listed below are known to be selling Australian native ferns and are willing to supply members on a retail basis. We would like to add other outlets known to carry a reasonable range of Australian native ferns. So that a more comprehensive list may be published in a future Newsletter, would you please inform the Leader of the details of any other outlets of which you are aware. The following information should be supplied: name, address and phone / fax number of nursery, brief details of the

range of ferns for sale, and any other pertinent matters, including whether ferns are supplied by mail order. Those members with nurseries are particularly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity of advertising ferns for sale. Please advise any supplementary data or corrections if relevant

#### QUEENSLAND

Nielsen's Native Nursery, 49-51 Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, Loganholme, 4129. Phone (07) 3806 1414. Fax (07) 3806 1706. Australian native ferns include *Angiopteris evecta*, *Todea barbara*, *Cyathea cooperi* and *Blechnum indicum* to name a few.

Rod Pattison, P.O. Box 567, Rochedale South, 4123. Rod has a very large native fern collection and a small nursery selling native ferns. Many of the ferns are rare. Ferns sent by mail if required.

Rathie's Rare Plants, Lot 5 Salston Road, Greenbank, 4124. Phone (07) 3200 0268. Email: [krathie@powerup.com.au](mailto:krathie@powerup.com.au). Member Kerry Rathie sells virtually all native ferns including mutant forms of some species. No mail orders but if unable to collect, contact Kerry regarding possible visit to your area.

Member, Ian Wood, P.O., Walkerston, 4751.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

Kanerley Farm Exhibition & Nursery, 204 Hinton Road, Osterley, via Raymond Terrace, 2324. Phone (0249) 87 2781. A large range including rarer ferns.

Native Fern Nursery, 6 Bardess Road, Farmborough Heights, 2526. Phone (0242) 71 6565. Specialising in Stags, Elks & Tree Ferns.

Palm Land, 327 Mona Vale Road, Terrey Hills, 2084. Phone (02) 9450 1555. It is a large palm nursery but also contains a large area devoted to ferns, many Australian.

Sydney Wildflower Nursery, Veno Street, Heathcote, 2233. Phone (02) 9548 2818. A range of mainly local ferns.

#### VICTORIA

Bush-House Nursery is conducted by member, Lorraine Deppeler. It is situated at Cobden Road, Naringal, Victoria. (Postal Address: P.B. Allansford, 3277) Phone (03) 5566 2331. Lorraine has advised that mail orders have been quite successful with feedback indicating ferns arriving in good condition. Cartons will fit either 18 x 4" ferns or 12 x 6" ferns. Apparently Australia Post has changed their pricing policy for some areas. Lorraine advises having negotiated with a road transport company and freight for one carton to Adelaide, Sydney or Brisbane will now be \$20. Some country areas may be a little more. Australia Post may still be cheaper to use for some areas of Victoria. Tube sized plants can also be sent barerooted, but availability may be more limited. Prices: \$3 per 4" pot, \$5 per 6" pot and \$1 per tube.

Ferntastic Ferns, 272 Humffrey Street, Ballarat. Phone (03) 5332 1275. Member, Michael Healy, runs this small fern nursery as a hobby business. A variety of native ferns always available. People visiting the area are more than welcome to call but please phone in advance.

The Refernery, Amey's Terrace, Foster North, 3960. Phone (056) 89 1309. Range includes some cultivars. Most supplied in either tube, 4" and 6" sizes, or trays. The Nursery is conducted by Allan Standerling and Julie Dickson who are members..

## MID NORTH COAST REPORT

### Report on Outing to Mt Warning (Wollumbin), 31 October 1998

Our group camped at Mt Warning Caravan Park. Tourist information stated there was lush rainforest at the Park with tracks in them. They were right about the walking tracks. The forest was 50 year old regrowth of a mixture of rainforest trees and *Camphor laurel*, *Aridisia*, potato vine beside the river, some *Ochna* and a patch of the exotic Dutchman's Pipe which is poisonous to birdwing butterflies. It showed if establishing or regenerating rainforest, careful attention needs to be given to weeds.

*Lastreopsis marginans* was fairly plentiful. It is common around Lismore but in our area, have only seen it at Woolgoolga. *Adiantum hispidulum* looked different to those we see usually. Its fronds were greener and less inclined to have the five fingered appearance. *Pellaea viridis* grew in one place. This is an exotic species which is naturalised in parts of northern NSW and Queensland. More of it grew among grass beside the road.

As we walked beside the river, tortoises were sunning themselves on rocks in the stream. They were fairly timid and dived into water soon after we saw them. In the evenings we went down to the river to watch for platypus. The first night we saw two up close (or the same one twice). It swam leisurely around where we were. We had a good view of it from the bridge. *Asplenium australasicum* in the area was confusing and some seemed to be intermediate between that species and *A.harmanii*.

The next day we set out to climb Mt Warning. We left early as we thought it might be hot later. The track is well graded and zig zags up the southern side of the mountain through rainforest. We met groups of people on their way back. They had gone up at 3 am with torches to see the sunrise first in Australia. (Mt Warning and Cape Byron both claiming this distinction). Going up to see the sunrise at this time of year is a chancy business because Wollumbin means cloud catcher and you are just as likely to be enveloped in fog at sunrise but that did not happen that morning we were told.

The number of fern species on the lower slopes of the mountain is great, as the South East Queensland Group reported (March 1999 Newsletter). We saw *Nephrolepis cordifolia*. Some were high up on trees and we think this is what the Queensland Group thought looked like the north Queensland *Schellolepis* sp. *Diplazium assimile* was plentiful beside the track. It is also plentiful at Dorrigo but apart from that we seldom see it.

Higher on the Mountain we reached the zone that often is covered with mist. The giant lily, *Doryanthes palmeri*, grows there. *Asplenium harmanii* is plentiful on the rocks. It grows at a similar altitude at Bar Mountain and The Pinnacle on the range west of Mt Warning. It is also not far in a straight line to its Queensland habitats. *Microsorium diversifolium* is found in this part while most *M.scandens* is found lower down the mountain. A few plants of *Polystichum formosum* were seen.

The ferns and rainforest end where the chain beside the track up the steep part of the mountain is. The area is covered with heathland. A red flowered *Callistemon* and a small leaved *Zieria* and a blue and white *Lobelia* were in flower in this region.

At the top there are four viewing platforms - one facing each direction. The view from each is spectacular. All six of us that were in our group made it to the top and we sang "Happy Birthday" to Harry who was turning 74 the next day. We then returned to the picnic area and had lunch and did the short walk at the base of the mountain.

The next day we set off for Nimbin markets and then onto Mt Nardie. It was the wrong weekend for the markets so went on to Mt Nardie. The walks in that National Park are in beautiful rainforest and a sharp contrast to the weed covered hill we drove past on the way. We saw *Doodia media* a few times. The form in this area had shorter pinnules than the form at Mt Warning. *Doodia aspera* was plentiful and we saw one fairly large patch of a crested form.

On our last day, on the way home we stopped at Clarrie Hall Dam. I left earlier and had a quick trip up Mt Warning to look again at the heathland area. This time sunrise had been all fog and still was that way when I was there. I arrived at the Dam after the rest of the group had finished and was about to leave. I found a few ferns the rest of the group didn't as I probably went to a different part. Among these was a *Todea barbara*. I do not know how the rest of the group missed this one.

The following ferns were recorded:

#### **Caravan Park (Mt Warning ) & Vicinity:**

*Adiantum diaphanum*, *A. formosum*, *A. hispidulum*, *Arachniodes aristata*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. harmanii*, *A. polyodon*, *Azolla pinnata*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *B. patersonii*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea australis*, *C. cooperi*, *C. leichhardtiana*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dennstaedtia davallioides*, *Doodia aspera*, *D. caudata*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *H. muelleri*, *Lastreopsis margins*, *L. microsora*, *L. munita*, *Lunathyrium petersenii*, *Lygodium microphyllum*, *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *P. superbum*, *Psilotum nudum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pteris tremula*, *P. umbrosa*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *P. rupestris*, *Sticherus flabellatus*.

#### **Mount Warning:**

*Adiantum diaphanum*, *A. formosum*, *A. hispidulum*, *A. silvaticum*, *Arthropteris beckleri*, *A. tenella*, *Asplenium attentuatum*, *A. australasicum*, *A. flabellifolium*, *A. harmanii*, *A. polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *B. patersonii*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea australis*, *C. cooperi*, *C. leichhardtiana*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dictymia brownii*, *Diplazium assimile*, *D. australe*, *Doodia aspera*, *D. caudata*, *D. media*, *Grammitis billardieri*, *Histiopteris incisa*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiformis*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *H. muelleri*, *Lastreopsis acuminata*, *L. decomposita*, *L. marginans*, *L. microsora*, *L. munita*, *Lunathyrium petersenii*, *Macroglena caudata*, *Microsorium diversifolium*, *M. scandens*, *P. falcata*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *P. superbum*, *Polystichum formosum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pteris tremula*, *P. umbrosa*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *P. rupestris*, *Vittaria elongata*.

**Mount Nardi:** *Adiantum hispidulum*, *A. silvaticum*, *Arthropteris beckleri*, *A. tenella*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *B. patersonii*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Cyathea australis*, *C. cooperi*, *C. leichhardtiana*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dictymia brownii*, *Diplazium assimile*, *Doodia aspera*, *D. caudata*, *D. media*, *Grammitis billardieri*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *H. muelleri*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *L. marginans*, *L. microsora*, *Macroglena caudata*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Pellaea falcata*, *Platycerium bifurcatum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Sticherus lobatus*, *Tmesipteris ovata*, *Vittaria elongata*.

**Clarrie Hall Dam:** *Adiantum aethiopicum*, *A. formosum*, *A. hispidulum*, *A. silvaticum*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea australis*, *C. cooperi*, *C. leichhardtiana*, *Cyclosorus interruptus*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dennstaedtia davallioides*, *Doodia aspera*, *D. caudata*, *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Pellaea viridis*, *Pityrogramma austroamericana*, *Platycerium bifurcatum*, *P. superbum*, *Psilotum nudum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *P. rupestris*, *Sticherus flabellatus*, *S. lobatus*, *Todea barbara*.

### Report on Outing to Werrikimbe National Park, 27-29 March 1999

We camped at Brushy Mountain Rest Area - one of the five rest or picnic areas in this Park. Werrikimbe contains areas of montane heath and contrasting areas of Antarctic Beech forests. The streams in the area are clear and clean.

There are some walking tracks which pass through both heathland and Beech forest. The heathlands have few ferns but those they do have do not grow in more typical fern habitats. *Lindsaea linearis* and *Schizaea fistula* both grew in small numbers in this area. There also were a few patches of *Lycopodium deuterodensum*. *Blechnum nudum* and *B. minus* grew in wet places.

Within the Beech forests a greater number of fern species grew. *Asplenium flaccidum* was fairly plentiful. This species occurs in most highland areas we go to but often is not very plentiful.

Mt Banda Banda is a large mesa-like mountain visible from Kempsey. It is a short drive from Brushy Mountain and its top is covered with trees. The ferns there were much the same as Brushy Mountain. *Sticherus lobatus* was common at all the mountain places we visited and in some places it was exclusive ground cover for over 100 m in all directions. We did not see any *S. flabellatus* in the mountain areas at all. *Asplenium australasicum* was present in the Beech forests of all the places we visited but it was uncommon. *Pyrrosia rupestris* is fairly widespread in highland areas but there was no *P. confluens*.

Our other trip that was a short drive from Brushy Mountain was to Plateau Beech. The walk through the Beech forest was beautiful. We were looking out for *Leptopteris fraseri* which occurs in this area but we didn't see any. This is the only place in northern NSW where it is found. Its main distribution is in the Blue Mountains where it is present at quite a few different places. It is also found in North Queensland, but is not in South Queensland. *Dicksonia antarctica* was present as it was in all the mountain places. In one sheltered area its trunks were covered with the filmy fern *Polyphlebium venosum*. The

common filmy fern *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme* was present at all areas we visited. *Tmesipteris truncata* grew out of the trunk of *Cyathea australis*. None of it was seen in *Todea barbara* - another fern that was fairly widespread in the mountain areas, always in wet places.

On the way home we called in at Cobrabald Picnic Area on the lower Wilson River. Here for the first time that outing we saw *Adiantum* - four species and *Sticherus flabellatus*. *Platynerium bifurcatum* was in the trees. Forming small mats on rocks was *Grammitis stenophylla*. *G. billardieri* was present also. It was scattered through the mountain forests as well.

Among the fauna were lyre birds, brush turkeys and a mouse. Our zoological knowledge was not good enough to know if it was a Hastings River Mouse, but we were in the right area for it. A few kangaroos were about also and of course leeches were in the wetter areas. The following ferns were recorded:

**Mount Banda Banda:** *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. flaccidum*, *A. polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *B. nudum*, *B. patersonii*, *B. wattsii*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Cyathea australis*, *C. leichhardtiana*, *Dicksonia antarctica*, *Dictymia brownii*, *Diplazium australe*, *Doodia aspera*, *Grammitis billardieri*, *Histiopteris incisa*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *H. muelleri*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *L. microsora*, *L. munita*, *Lunathyrium petersenii*, *Microsorium diversifolium*, *M. scandens*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Sticherus lobatus*, *Todea barbara*

**Brushy Mountain:** *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. flabellifolium*, *A. flaccidum*, *A. polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *B. minus*, *B. nudum*, *B. patersonii*, *B. wattsii*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Cyathea australis*, *Dicksonia antarctica*, *Diplazium australe*, *Doodia aspera*, *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Grammitis billardieri*, *Histiopteris incisa*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, *Lastreopsis acuminata*, *L. decomposita*, *Lindsaea linearis*, *Lunathyrium petersenii*, *Lycopodium deuterodensum*, *Microsorium diversifolium*, *M. scandens*, *P. falcata*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Schizaea fistulosa*, *Sticherus lobatus*, *Todea barbara*,

**Plateau Beech:** *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. bulbiferum*, *A. flabellifolium*, *A. flaccidum*, *A. polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *B. nudum*, *B. patersonii*, *B. wattsii*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Cyathea australis*, *Dicksonia antarctica*, *Dictymia brownii*, *Diplazium australe*, *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Grammitis billardieri*, *Histiopteris incisa*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiformis*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *Lastreopsis acuminata*, *L. decomposita*, *Microsorium diversifolium*, *M. scandens*, *P. falcata*, *Polyphlebium venosum*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Stichertus lobatus*, *Tmesipteris truncata*, *Todea barbara*,

**Cobrabald:** *Adiantum aethiopicum*, *A. formosum*, *A. hispidulum*, *A. silvaticum*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea australis*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Doodia aspera*, *Grammitis billardieri*, *G. stenophylla*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *Lindsaea microphylla*, *Pellaea falcata*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *P. rupestris*, *Sticherus flabellatus*.

## SOUTH EASTERN QUEENSLAND REPORT

Contributed by Irene Cullen

### Report on Excursion to Miala National Park, Mt Glorious, 7 March 1999

It had been many years since our Group had walked the main track of Miala National Park. On our numerous visits to Mt Glorious, in recent years, we tended to explore Forestry tracks or visited private properties or Love Creek. We found that much work had been done in the upgrading of the tracks and board walks built over the creek beds. The total number of fern species we listed was twenty seven. It was felt that had we been able to cross the creek beds, instead of viewing them from the board walk above, the count could have been greater, especially with filmy ferns. Following is a list of ferns sighted.

*Adiantum diaphanum*, *A. formosum*, *A. hispidulum*, *Arthropteris beckleri*, *A. tenella*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea cooperi*, *C. leichhardtiana*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Diplazium assimile*, *Doodia aspera*, *D. caudata*, *D. media*, *Hypolepis glandulifera*, *Lastreopsis margins*, *L. microsora*, *L. munita*, *L. smithiana*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Platynerium superbum*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *P. rupestris*, *Trichomanes vitiense*.

### Report on Meeting at Greenbank, 4 April 1999

It was a showery morning when we met at Kerry Rathie's home. Our study was the *Doodia* species. In the absence of Peter Bostock, Lorna Murray very ably led our discussion. Armed with the new Flora and several specimens she started by pointing out the difference between *Doodias* and *Blechnum*, another of the *Blechnaceae* Family. Working from the new Flora, she had kindly supplied a copy of the *Doodia* key to those of us who had not as yet obtained their own copy. Although we missed Peter sorely at times, we found it satisfying to realise we were able to say with a degree of certainty what some of the actual specimens were. However, there are still many questions that we trust Peter will solve for us at our next study. Later, Kerry had many interesting ferns to show us. They were thriving along with the weeds following good autumn rains.

### Report on Excursion to Border Range National Park & Mt Nardi, 1-2 May 1999

Sixteen Fern Study members (five from N.S.W.) met at the Brindle Creek Picnic Area for lunch on the Saturday. Our first walk was the Brindle Creek Loop. A total of 38 fern species was recorded. It was the first sighting of *Pteris comans* in the field for most of the Queensland Group. Next we walked to the Pinnacle Lookout. Here more ferns were recorded - most of them different from the ones recorded at Brindle Creek. On Sunday morning it was raining quite heavily, with no sign of letting up. The decision was made to abandon our planned walk on Bar Mountain. This was a great disappointment as two members had camped there. We proceeded on the sealed road to Mt Nardi. Despite the showers, the walk in Night Cap National Park was most rewarding and enjoyable. Twenty ferns were recorded. A list of the ferns recorded is as follows:

**Brindle Creek Loop:** *Adiantum silvaticum*, *Arthropteris beckleri*, *A. tenella*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. polyodon*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *B. nudum*, *B. patersonii*, *B. wattsi*, *Cephalomanes caudatum*, *Christella dentata*, *Crepidomanes venosum*, *Cyathea australis*, *C. cooperi*, *C. leichhardtiana*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Dennstaedtea davallioides*, *Deparia petersonii subsp. congrua*, *Dicksonia youngiae*, *Dictymia brownii*, *Diplazium assimile*, *D. australe*, *D. dilatatum*, *Doodia aspera*, *Hymenophyllum australe*, *H. flabellatum*, *Hypolepis muelleri*, *Lastreopsis silvestris*, *L. smithiana*, *Microsorium scandens*,

M.pustulatum subsp. pustulatum, Pellaea nana, Platycterium bifurcatum, Pteris comans, P.umbrosa,  
Pyrrhosia confluens var. confluens, Todea barbara, Vittaria ensiformis.

**The Pinnacle Lookout:** A.hispidulum var. hispidulum, Arthropteris tenella, Asplenium flabellifolium,  
A.harmanii, Microsorium pustulatum subsp. pustulatum, Polystichum formosum.

**Mt Nardi:** Adiantum silvaticum, Arthropteris beckleri, A.tenella, Asplenium australasicum,  
A.polyodon, Blechnum cartilagineum, B.patersonii, Cephalomanes caudatum, Crepidomanes vitiense,  
Cyathea cooperi, C.leichhardtiana, Diplazium assimile, Doodia aspera, Hypolepis glandulifera,  
H.muelleri, Lastreopsis smithiana, Microsorium scandens, Platycterium bifurcatum, Pyrrhosia confluens  
var. confluens, P.rupestris.

## SYDNEY REGION REPORT

### Report on Outing to Somersby Falls, 20 March 1999

(Contributed by Kyrill Taylor)

A smaller group of walkers than usual assembled punctually on a most pleasant morning - it was sunny and comfortably warm.

Our descent into the falls area was to the sound of much thrashing water due to the recent heavy rainfall in the area. Some wooden walkway is available but in the main we were rock-hopping on rather slippery and uneven tracks. Many of the fern supporting areas were newly wet and muddy, making scrutiny of species rather unpleasant.

Fourteen varieties were revealed to our gaze and inspection, namely:

Todea barbara, Gleichenia rupestris, Histiopteris incisa, Adiantum aethiopicum, Cyathea cooperi, Pellaea falcata, Pyrrhosia rupestris, Blechnum nudum, B.wattsi, B.gregsonii,  
Pteridium esculentum, Lindsaea microphylla, Hymenophyllum cupressiforme, Asplenium flabellifolium, Grammitis billardieri, Sticherus lobatus.

An earlier trip to Somersby Falls uncovered more varieties but then we had more "eyes" on that occasion. Without the help of Roy Duncan our list of ferns would have been shorter still! Thank you Roy.

### Report on Meeting at Epping, 22 May 1999

(Contributed by Joan Moore)

Despite heavy rain in the morning, fourteen members braved it and attended the meeting hosted by Rose Bach. Peter led study of Thelypteridaceae. As stated in 'Flora of Australia' Volume 48, "The presence of unicellular, acicular hairs on the upper surface of costae and the arrangement of vascular strands in the stipe distinguish members of Thelypteridaceae from all other ferns." These hairs, such an important distinguishing feature of the Family, were hardly visible on the specimens examined. However members agreed on recognition more or less according to frond type. The Macrothelypteris torresiana brought to the meeting for the raffle is the only bipinnate Thelypteroid.

Rose showed as her "Favourite Fern" a tiny Doodia hindii. It is growing in a 5' pot and is about 5" tall. It had been propagated from spore taken from a tiny part of a mature specimen that Peter brought to one of our meetings about five years ago. Rose reported

having raised about a dozen plants. The one shown at the meeting was the largest and had developed a little trunk. Although Doodia hindii was not included in the recently published 'Flora Australia', Volume 48, we look forward to this distinctive looking species soon receiving official recognition.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS : IN THE MID NORTH COAST, NSW.**

##### Tuesday to Thursday 6, 7 & 8 July 1999, Excursion to Watagans Area

Outings will commence from Bea and Roy Duncan's home at 42 Earl Street, Homersville. For more details of the events and activities of the Group, contact Charlie Charters, phone (065) 86 1088.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGION**

##### Sunday 6 June 1999 , Meeting at Jindalee

Meet at 9.30 am at Lorna Murray's home, 18 Pantheon Street, Jindalee, for Pellaea study and discussion on involvement in the A.S.G.A.P. Conference.

##### Friday 9 July 1999

Set up display for South-East Queensland Fern Study at A.S.G.A.P. Conference venue.

##### Sunday 1 August 1999 , Meeting at Algester

Meet at Irene Cullen's home, 220 Ridgewood Road, Algester for study on the 'Filmy Ferns' and consideration of plans for our Flower Show.

##### Friday 9 September 1999

Set up for Flower Show.

##### Sunday 3 October 1999 , Excursion to White Swamp

Particulars in September Bulletin.

For further information regarding South East Queensland Fern Study, please contact Peter Bostock phone (07) 3202 6983 or Irene Cullen on (07) 3273 1055.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS : IN THE SYDNEY REGION**

##### Sunday 20 June 1999, Outing to Royal National Park

An easy 5 km walk on the well graded Forest Island track with ferns along most of the way. Meet from 9.30 ready for a prompt start at 10 o'clock. Enter Park from Waterfall entrance. Parking available on both sides of the road in Bertrand Stevens Drive opposite the gate at the southern end of Lady Carrington Drive. Enquiries to Peter (02) 9625 8705.

##### Tuesday to Thursday 6, 7, & 8 July 1999, Outing to the Watagans

A special opportunity to join in, on one or more days, with members of the Mid North Coast Group - see above. For further information contact the Duncans (02) 4953 1452.

Sunday 18 July 1999, Meeting at Mt Druitt

At the home of Peter & Margaret Hind. Arrive from 11.30, study session starts at 1 pm. The subject is 'Aspleniaceae'. Bring lunch and plate for afternoon tea. Enquiries to Peter (02) 9625 8705.

Saturday 21 August 1999, Outing to Mt Wilson

Meet at the picnic area at 10 o'clock. Drive through the Mt Wilson settlement to the T-intersection. Turn right towards Waterfall Creek and Chimney Cottage. The picnic area is a couple of hundred metres past the intersection. Enquiries to Peter (02) 9625 8705.

Saturday 18 September 1999, Meeting at Blacktown

At the home of Les and Tess Taylor, 4 Prospect Street, Blacktown. Arrive from 11 am. Study session subject is 'Blechnaceae'. Bring lunch and plate for afternoon tea. Enquiries to Les on (02) 9621 5840.

Saturday 16 October 1999, Outing to the Watagan Range

To the Watagans with the guidance of Roy and Bea Duncan to see particularly the Boarding House Dam area and Gap Creek. Travelling from Sydney along the Freeway take the Morisset exit. Meet at 10 am at the Fire Station located at the corner of Freemans Drive and Martinsville Road, Cooranbong, before proceeding to Mt Falk Road and Gap Creek. Enquiries to the Duncans (02) 4953 14 52. Roy says weather can't be guaranteed, check with him if doubtful.

**DEADLINE FOR COPY**

Copy for the next issue should be forwarded to reach the Leader at 41 Miller Street, Mt Druitt, 2770, by no later than 15 August 1999.

**SECRETARY'S POSITION**

A final reminder. Please consider whether you are able to help in carrying out at least some part of the duties of Secretary. Enquiries to Peter (02) 9625 8705. This is the last Newsletter prepared with Moreen's assistance.

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