



ASSOCIATION of

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

## Newsletter Number 87

ISSN 0811-5311

DATE - December, 1999

\*\*\*\*\*

**LEADER** : Peter Hind, 41 Miller Street, Mount Druitt. N.S.W. 2770

**SECRETARY** : Vacant

**TREASURER** : Joan Moore, 2 Gannet Street, Gladesville. N.S.W. 2111

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**: Mike Healy, 272 Humffray St. Nth., Ballarat. Vic. 3350

E-mail address: nhealy@telstra.easymail.com.au> (N.B. It is *n not m*healy)

**SPORE BANK**: Barry White, 24 Ruby Street, West Essendon. Vic. 3040

\*\*\*\*\*

**YEAR 2000 FERN STUDY GROUP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE due now.** Please forward your \$5 membership fee to the Treasurer, Joan Moore, as soon as possible

### THE BOOK! AT LAST!

Contributed by **J. Moore**

**Dr. Calder Chaffey: AUSTRALIAN FERNS - Growing them Successfully.** This is the book the Group has been waiting for for several years. (refer to earlier issues of this Newsletter) We are very grateful to Dr. Chaffey for undertaking the task which he did back in 1996. The book is available from:

FLORILEGIUM,  
P.O.Box 644,  
ROZELLE.  
N.S.W. 2039

The Price is \$65.00: Postage free for members. Florilegium is a book shop devoted entirely to books about gardening, plants, and related subjects. It is a bookseller to S.G.A.P. N.S.W. with postage free to members: And this arrangement includes S.G.A.P. members in other states. So when ordering, say that you are a member of S.G.A.P., and of the Fern Study Group. We hope to have a review of the book in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Details of **AUSTRALIAN FERNS: Growing them Successfully. By Dr. Calder Chaffey.** Dr. Chaffey says this book includes:

- Growing zones and map of each fern described. This is **original research by the author.**
- List of authors of fern names of ferns included.
- A Simple pronunciation of all fern names included.
- A translation of the meaning of the name of each fern included, compiled by research of original material, where possible, to ascertain why the name was chosen by the fern author and to what part of the fern it refers.

- A book mark illustrating fern parts with labels and three spare bookmarks in the back which may be cut out for use.
- There are five sections not found in most books about Australian ferns. These sections and the general information about ferns and each fern treated make this book quite different from the usual growing manuals.
- The Foreward is by Professor P. Bostock of Brisbane Herbarium.
- A recent remark suggests it will be a sequel to the fern volume of Flora Australia and state floras which do not cover general aspects or cultivation - see Foreward.

The book is in three parts and includes:

**Part 1: About Ferns.** Some general information about ferns.

**Part 2: About Growing Ferns.** Information about ferns and how to grow them.

**Part 3: Ferns to Grow.**

Map of growing zones in Australia.

Specific information about growing 195 Australian ferns & where they can be grown.

Brief description of fern families

There are 239 colour plates

Lists of suggested ferns for special locations.

Glossary

Abbreviations

Authors of plant names

Synonyms

References and suggested reading

Index.

**Expected to be released on 15th November, 1999**

---

## **OLDER FERNS IN CULTIVATION & S.A. FERN WEB SITE**

**Contributed by Keith Rogers, S.A.**

I have heard that there are *Platyserium superbum* that are over 100 years old. They have apparently had their backs removed and remounted. Have seen reports of *Angiopteris evecta* a century old in overseas botanic gardens.

Keith, who is Editor of the Fern Society in South Australia, added that he is now on the web with his fernpage 1 and 2 at: <http://www.LM.net.au/~kerogers/> For the Internet buffs amongst you, you may wish to visit Keith at his web-page. Keith indicates that "unfortunately have so far been unable to meet up with any group when travelling around," though is a good friend of Rod Pattison and was pleased to see last month's write up.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FERN SOCIETY INC.** Congratulations to the Society on its 20th Anniversary, which was celebrated on 1st August, 1999. We understand 55 past and present members, including several founding members, attended the celebrations. The Society's newsletter indicates an enjoyable time was had by all.

## SYDNEY REPORT

### Report on members' visit to Mt Wilson - 21st August, 1999

Contributed by J. Moore

The Waterfall Creek picnic area at Mount Wilson is, in my opinion, the best place to see the ferns of the Blue Mountains: One can see a large number there without having to scramble hundreds of feet down to the bottoms of canyons. ("Down" is not so bad; it is the "Up" that of late years I find difficult, or rather impossible). The path is roughly a circular track, leaving the reserve at one point and returning at another, following the creek and then a tributary. The ferns are within easy viewing: one does not have to venture into leech country to see them. And, it is the only place I know to see the remarkable Leptopteris fraseri with no effort - well hardly any. It is growing on the rocks that are under the waterfall itself, or very nearby. Other ferns seen in the area include:

Asplenium bulbiferum	Grammitis billiardierei
" flabellifolium	Hymenophyllum cupressiforme
" flaccidum	Lastriopsis acuminata
Blechnum cartilagineum	Microsorium scandens
" nudum	" diversifolium (pustulatum)
" patersoni	Pellaea falcata
Cristella dentata	Polyphlebium venosum
Cyathea sp.	Polystichum proliferum
Dennstaedtia davallioides	Pteridium esculentum
Dicksonia antarctica	Pyrrosia rupestris
Diplazium australe	Sticherus lobatus
Doodia spp.	Tmesipteris obliqua
	Todea barbara

### Report on meeting at Blacktown 18th September, 1999

Peter Hind led the discussion on the family of Blechnaceae. The members of this family are terrestrial or lithophytic, plus one climber. Species can be dimorphic, or not. Australia has only four genera: Blechnum, Doodia, Stenochlaena and Pteridoblechnum. Other genera from abroad are grown here such as Woodwardia species.

Young fronds in the whole family are often **red**, and the fronds are never split any further than pinnate: If they appear bipinnate, on inspection the pinnules will be seen to be joined to each other (as in Woodwardia spp.).

In all Blechnaceae there are elongate sori on the lower surface of the pinnule, and parallel to the midrib of the pinnule. The indusium opens on the other side closer to the costa (the midrib). In other ferns it opens the other way.

The appearance of the sori has caused some of the larger ferns like B. cartilagineum and the woodwardia spp. to be referred to as "Stitch" ferns. Stenochlaena palustris has extremely narrow fertile fronds, and there is no indusium present.

**Name Change** Doodia media southern form, as in N.S.W., Victoria and Tasmania, previously called subspecies australis, is now named Doodia australis. Both Doodia australis and Doodia media grow in Queensland.

## Report on Outing to the Watagans - 16th October, 1999

Contributed by Alan Woollett

Despite the forecast of rain, 15 members gathered at our meeting point, a small park in Cooranbong, where, fortified by the usual "cuppa", we prepared for our trip into the Watagan Ranges. Duck weed growing on a pond in this park created some interest but, as Joan explained, this was not *Azolla* or even another aquatic fern. Duck weed is in the Lemnaceae Family, an Angiosperm, and although usually propagating vegetatively, it does have flowers and fruit.

Having seen off one member, 14 participants proceeded by car convoy to our first and major walk of the day, Gap Creek. This walk is through a patch of sub-tropical rain forest. We were fortunate to have Roy Duncan as our guide and advisor. Roy has an unsurpassed knowledge of the Watagan fern areas and on this occasion, he provided our Leader, Peter, with the list of ferns identified during a previous visit by the Mid North Coast Group. There are almost 40 different species in this rich area and all except *Asplenium attenuatum*, were located. A special search along the creek area where this missing fern was believed to have been sighted, again failed.

After lunch we moved cars a short distance to the Boarding House Dam car park. Apparently this was given to the area by timbercutters who camped during the week. This was in by-gone times when travelling from camp to home was only feasible at weekends.

The highlight of our short walk here through gully rainforest was the moss wall about 80m long and resplendently green and lush as a consequence of the unusually wet season. Among the numerous ferns, two species caused most comment. The first of these, *Vittaria elongata*, with its long narrow pendant fronds, was there in profusion. The second, *Asplenium polyodon*, was not on Roy's list.

So, the end of an enjoyable day, prolonged for some who had to travel back to Sydney. Our thanks to Roy for his help which, he told us, included keeping the rain away.

## SYDNEY PROGRAMME FOR COMING MONTHS

### January 29th (Saturday) 2000

Meet at Peter Hind's place, 41 Miller St., Mt. Druitt, at 11a.m. topics for discussion are: **How to identify spores ready for collection:** and (if time) **Cyatheaceae.**

### February 19th, (Saturday) 2000

**Visit to Mt. Tomah Botanic Gardens & the rainforest walk adjacent.** This is on the Bell's Line of road Blue Mountains. Meet at 9:30a.m. for 10a.m. start. Inquiries to Peter on (02) 9625 8705

---

## NOTES FROM S.E. QUEENSLAND

Compiled by Irene Cullen

**The Group's final meeting for 1999** was held at Elaine and Ron Jell's home: It was a happy occasion. The Jell's have recently acquired a small collection of *Lycopodium*, which was displayed, admired and duly envied. We talked about our display at the September Flower Show and discussed ways of improving it. Peter Bostock gave us a Report on his October trip to Mt. Finnigan (North Queensland). We started on our Year 2000 Programme, then walked to the creek before our Plant Swap and Lunch. Following the excursion to Mt. Clunie, all members agreed that it was well worth another visit - possibly a 2 day excursion. The activities of our Group has ceased

for the year. We wish all our fellow Study members a Happy Christmas and a great start to the new Millennium!

**Report on outing to the vicinity of Mt. Clunie, Sunday 3rd October, 1999.**

**Contributed by Merle Gynther.**

We had all been looking forward to this outing to a new area, where we were guided by Fran and Jim Standing, of Mt Clunie Cabins via Woddenbong. However, we did not expect to step out of our cars into a marvellous fairly new Australian native plant Garden. Our hosts are native plant enthusiasts and fine gardeners. The large garden was in full spring display and also has a rainforest planting.

The drizzly weather eased off as we started our walk, but the mountain views stayed hidden by cloud. The views of Mt. Lindesay and Mt. Barney, etc. will have to wait until next time. The N.S.W. - Queensland border passes over the Northern section of Mt. Clunie.

The ferns were a real treat and we recorded about thirty six species. Most were around the beautiful creeks, which are in the Clarence River Catchment. Lorna Murray, who prepared the list below, noticed that in our excursions over the last twelve month or so, we have seen all these species, apart from *Pellaea paradoxa*. This was growing beside a track up a rather steep ridge.

About thirteen people participated in the outing. On another occasion, a more adventurous outing might be to venture further onto Mt. Clunie itself. We finished with afternoon tea refreshments on the Standings' front verandah while watching the Eastern spinebills diving in the ornamental pool and feeding on the flowering Grevilleas.

<i>Adiantum diaphanum</i>	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i>	<i>Lastreosis Munita</i>
“ <i>formosum</i>	<i>Davallia pyxidata</i>	“ <i>smithiana</i>
“ <i>hispidulum</i>	<i>Dennstaedtia davallioides</i>	<i>Microsorium scandens</i>
<i>Arthropteris beckleri</i>	<i>Dictymia brownii</i>	<i>Pellaea nana</i>
“ <i>tenella</i>	<i>Diplazium assimile</i>	“ <i>paradoxa</i>
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	“ <i>australe</i>	<i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i>
“ <i>polyodon</i>	<i>Doodia aspera</i>	“ <i>superbum</i>
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	“ <i>caudata</i>	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>
“ <i>patersonii</i>	<i>Hypolepsis glandulifera</i>	<i>Pteris tremula</i>
<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>	“ <i>muelleri</i>	“ <i>umbrosa</i>
<i>Christella dentata</i>	<i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i>	<i>Pyrossia confluens</i>
<i>Cyathea australis</i>	“ <i>microsora</i>	“ <i>rupestris</i>

**FORTHCOMING MEETING DATES FOR STH. EAST QLD - YR. 2000**

February - Sunday 6th at 9:30a.m. Meet at Graham Nosworthy's home - 609 Grandview Road, Pullenvale. Topic - Fern identification a test for members.

March - Sunday 5th. Excursion to Mary Cairncross Park, Malaney. Meet 9:30a.m., at the Park.

April - Sunday 2nd. Meet at Peter and Pat Bostocks' home at 9:30a.m. - 59 Limosa St. Bellbowrie. Topic - back to Basics with Fern Genera.

*For information regarding South East Queensland Fern Study, please contact Peter Bostock. Phone: (07) 302 6983.*

**MID NORTH COAST GROUP, N.S.W.** ON the weekend of November 27/28, 1999 the Group has an excursion planned in the Port Macquarie area. At Wauhope they will be meeting David Jenkinson, leader rainforest group of SGAP, and touring his property. We look forward to a report on this outing from Steve Clemesha for the next Newsletter. For details of events and activities of the group contact Charlie Charters Phone: (02) 6586 1088

**FERNS OF THE BALLARAT AREA**

**Contributed by Mike Healy**

Throughout the Ballarat area in the Central Highlands region of Victoria, ferns are not prolific, although there is some evidence of some fern growth prior to the Gold rush which began in the 1850's. Some ferns in this region are found in mine shafts e.g. Dicksonia antarctica, Doodia aspera and Adiantum aethiopicum. There are also some large clumps of Gleichenia in the old Chinese gold workings. Further north, around Clunes and Mt. Beckwith, the climate becomes quite hot and dry, and ferns such as Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia become evident in the crevices, rock ledges etc. These Cheilanthes are a small growing fern that must have very high light to grow successfully. Trying to grow these ferns in a shady fernery is a sure way to have them sulk and die. Move them to a sunny, reasonably dry situation and they grow quite comfortably.

**SPORE BANK** - Barry White indicates that there are no additions and only a couple of deletions from September's Spore list. He has suggested that in future perhaps lists be included in every second newsletter. Could we please have some feedback on this. For those wishing to obtain spore from Barry, please note that it is free but a stamped, self addressed envelope should be included with your order. *For enquiries Barry's phone number is (03) 9337 9793: When ordering his address is 24 Ruby St. West Essendon Vic. 3040.* Barry has recently returned from Ayers Rock and reports that, other than Cheilanthes, he found few ferns, but many interesting rocks - half his luck!

**WHAT FERNS ARE GROWING IN TASSIE, S.A, W.A AND VICTORIA?** An invitation is extended to members in these States to contribute to the Newsletter. Individuals, as well as representatives of Groups, are welcome to contribute - so please let us hear about ferns in your States. Of course N.S.W. and Qld. contributions are still always welcome.

**DEADLINE FOR COPY:** The success of the newsletter is dependent on member contributions - even short comments add interest. As we start the new millennium, help us make the newsletter a bumper edition. Don't forget you can mail or E-mail me at the address on page 1. Copy for the next issue should reach me by February 15th, 2000.

***Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for the New Millennium!***

\*\*\*\*\*

If undeliverable return to:  
272 Humffray St. Nth.,  
Ballarat Vic. 3350

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

Print Post Approved  
P8P245358/00018

Robert Backhouse  
Old Mt. Samson Rd.,  
CLOSEBURN  
BRISBANE QLD. 4520