



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

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A. S. G. A. P.

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PROGRAM FOR THE SYDNEY REGION

Saturday 19 February, 11 am at the home of Peter Hind, 41 Miller Street, Mount Druitt. Study growing of and how to tell the three Australian species apart of *Drynaria*, plus discussion re the future of the Fern Study Group. The Sydney chapter appears to be in decline.

Saturday 19 March, 10 am at Lawson. Meet near the Soldiers Memorial (just off the Great Western Highway, turn left at the shopping centre), for a 10.30 am start (we drive to the start of the track), of a short walk to Adelina Falls and possibly to Federal Falls a little further down the same track. Bring lunch and water, to eat when we get back to the cars, perhaps carry a snack if you wish. This is one of the best of the more accessible ferny areas in the Blue Mountains. Expect to find around 30 different species including *Blechnum gregsonii*. Enquiries to Peter 96258705.

Sunday 17 April, 11 am at the home of Margaret and Peter Olde, 138 Fowler Road, Illawong. The last time we visited the olde's was in 1986. Part of the report from our September 1986 newsletter reads "Margaret Olde has developed a most pleasing environment for fern culture by way of a shade house with a watering system in place and representative samplings of various genera" It will be interesting to see how time and the recent droughty years have treated this collection. If you get lost ring Margaret on 95432242.

Sunday 22 May, 10 am at Mooney Mooney Creek. For a moderately easy walk, alongside the creek. Take lunch and water to eat back at the cars (or on the track if you wish), there are no facilities here but plenty of bush. 21 fern species, plus *Grevillea shiressii* and *Dendrobium lingueforme* where sighted on our last walk here in October 1994. Directions from Sydney a la 1994 "Leave Freeway at Gosford exit, travel on Pacific Highway towards Sydney for 8 km. as soon as bridge over Mooney Mooney Creek is crossed, turn right into Karloo Road and continue along this dirt/gravel road for 2 km. to level grassed area where we leave our cars and begin the walk" Enquiries to Peter 96258705.

PROGRAM FOR SOUTH - EAST QUEENSLAND

Sunday February 5th. Meet 9:30 am at Peter Bostock's home, 59 Limosa St, Bellbowrie. Topic: digital images of ferns, including ferns of New Zealand (Banks Peninsula). Bring your fern images on flash card or CD and bring us up to date!

Sunday March 6th. Excursion to Mapleton area. Meeting place still to be decided; time likely to be 9:30 am as usual. Contact Peter Bostock (home phone 07 3202 6983, work 07 3896 9508) for further details.

Sunday April 3rd. Meet 9:30 am at Rod Pattison's home, 447 Miles Platting Rd, Rochedale. Topic: the genus *Pteris*; also view Rod's garden.

Weekend Excursion, Labour Day weekend, April 29th - May 1st: Excursion to Girraween & Tenterfield areas, staying at a motel in Tenterfield. It is likely that by the time this newsletter is received, the bookings will have been finalised, but contact Peter Bostock (phone number above) if you would like to go and have not already put your name on the list.

Sunday June 5th. Meet 9:30 am at Claire Shackel's home, 19 Arafura St, Upper Mt Gravatt. Topic: propagation of ferns.

QUEENSLAND FERN STUDY GROUP REPORT - compiled by Merle Gyntner

Excursion to Binna Burra - Sunday 3 October, 2004.

A party of eleven members met at the picnic area near the entrance to the walking tracks in the Lamington National Park. Signs of the long drought were evident on the fringe of the rainforest, as well as on the route from Brisbane. Seven elected to walk the Daves Creek Circuit while the remaining members contented themselves with the ferns in the shorter rain forest circuit.

The Daves Creek walk passes through a number of different plant habitats. Filmy ferns were holding very well, except on the rainforest fringes, and many prickly tree ferns were coated with the filmy fern *Cephalomanes caudatum*. The Daves Creek plateau is a section of much poorer soils than the basalt soils of much of the rain forest. It was in this area of relatively low vegetation that we saw ferns such as the Lycopodiums, *Lindsaeas*, *Gleichenia* and *Sticherus*. *Todea barbara* in a rock shelter was a surprise to some, until some members informed us that in a normal year the *Todea* is under a waterfall!. We lunched on Surprise Rock - no ferns. Altogether a great day, a great walk and lots of ferns.

FERNS OF BINNA BURRA – 3 OCTOBER 200

<i>Adiantum</i>	<i>hispidulum</i>	<i>Grammitis</i>	<i>Stenophylla</i>
	<i>var.hispidulum</i>	<i>Hymenophyllum</i>	<i>cupressiforme</i>
<i>Adiantum</i>	<i>silvaticum</i>	<i>Lastreopsis</i>	<i>decomposita</i>
<i>Arachniodes</i>	<i>aristata</i>	<i>Lastreopsis</i>	<i>marginans</i>
<i>Arthropteris</i>	<i>beckleri</i>	<i>Lastreopsis</i>	<i>microsora</i>
<i>Arthropteris</i>	<i>tenella</i>	<i>Lastreopsis</i>	<i>munita</i>
<i>Asplenium</i>	<i>Australasicum</i>	<i>Lastreopsis</i>	<i>silvestris</i>
<i>Asplenium</i>	<i>polyodon</i>	<i>Lindsea</i>	<i>linearis</i>
<i>Blechnum</i>	<i>cartilagineum</i>	<i>Lindsea</i>	<i>microphylla</i>
<i>Blechnum</i>	<i>patersonii</i>	<i>Lycopodiella</i>	<i>lateralis</i>
<i>Blechnum</i>	<i>wattsii</i>	<i>Lycopodium</i>	<i>deuterodensum</i>
<i>Calochlaena</i>	<i>dubia</i>	<i>Microsorium</i>	<i>scandens</i>
<i>Cephalomanes</i>	<i>caudatum</i>	<i>Pellaea</i>	<i>nana</i>
<i>Crepidomanes</i>	<i>venosum</i>	<i>Platycterium</i>	<i>bifurcatum</i>
<i>Cyathea</i>	<i>australis</i>	<i>Platycterium</i>	<i>superbum</i>
<i>Cyathea</i>	<i>leichardtiana</i>	<i>Polystichum</i>	<i>formosum</i>
<i>Davallia</i>	<i>pyxidata</i>	<i>Pteridium</i>	<i>esculentum</i>
<i>Dennstaedtia</i>	<i>davallioides</i>	<i>Pteris</i>	<i>umbrosa</i>
<i>Dictymia</i>	<i>brownii</i>	<i>Pyrrosia</i>	<i>rupestris</i>
<i>Diplazium</i>	<i>assimile</i>	<i>Sticherus</i>	<i>lobatus</i>
<i>Doodia</i>	<i>aspera</i>	<i>Tmesipteris</i>	<i>truncata</i>
<i>Doodia</i>	<i>caudata</i>	<i>Todea</i>	<i>barbara</i>
<i>Gleichenia</i>	<i>Dicarpa</i>	<i>Vittaria</i>	<i>ensiformis</i>
<i>Gleichenia</i>	<i>Rupestris</i>		

A Field Guide to Australian Ferns

Calder Chaffey 2 vols:

Review by Ron Wilkins

Australian ferns are a large and complex group of plants and any attempt to make their identification easier for scientists, students and fern enthusiasts is very welcome. A Field Guide to Australian Ferns is an identification key to Australian Ferns. The taxonomic nomenclature in the Guide is consistent with The Flora of Australia vol. 48 (hereafter referred to as 'Flora'). The first volume deals with ferns south of the Tropic of Capricorn and the second and larger volume addresses ferns north of this line. This is convenient for those who are only interested in northern or southern ferns but if you live between Sydney and Brisbane the range of ferns that can be grown successfully in these locations may encourage the use of both volumes. The first volume lists 260 species and the second 352 species, 144 of which are already described in the first volume because of the overlapping ranges of some species. The same key is used in both volumes.

The guide is practical and designed for field identification. It does not give simply a summary of the botanical keys in the Flora. The 35 families of ferns and fern allies in the Flora are subsumed into 20 'groups' based on characters of a whole family or genus, or a combination of other physical features. Because the key is novel, it repays detailed study before use. Many of the fern groupings are suggested by their distinctive nature such as the water ferns, the climbing maidenhairs, the comb ferns and the filmy ferns. The large-trunk fern group has a more diverse composition as it includes ferns from four families. The majority of the Australian ferns, however, are included in four groups (Groups 17-20) which are defined primarily on the degree of division of the fronds. Each group may be divided into sub-groups two or three times primarily based on the nature and disposition of the sori. As this is a synoptic key the working procedure is to move sequentially through groups and sub-groups of higher to lower order until usually several species remain for a final choice to be made on the basis of detailed descriptions and figures. Decisions are greatly assisted by well-ordered species descriptions and the underlining of diagnostic features of each species in the description. For each species there is a useful geographical distribution map, similar to those given in the Flora.

Because this is a practical key, it is possible that ferns with a superficial similarity but very different phylogeny will be classified in the same subgroup. The final subgroup may still contain numerous species - as many as 19 species belonging to nine different genera in one subgroup - though in most instances the choice is much smaller. In practice such a group may be easier to search among than in the case where only one or two genera are represented such as the 14 *Cheilanthes* and two *Oenotrichia* that appear in one sub-group in Vol. 2. Some further keying of these large subgroups seems desirable especially as the figures are really only sketch diagrams designed to indicate the diagnostic features of the species rather than being figures of botanical quality. They are supported sometimes by photographs of similar quality so that often one feels the need to refer to a supplementary text with better quality figures. Although this is a clear defect of the Guide, it is explained in the introduction that the reason for this decision was to keep the books to an easily affordable price. And it is arguable that a field identification should always be

checked in the laboratory or by an expert anyway. It should be noted that in some cases where natural variation could result in erroneous classification, for example where the degree of division of the lamina falls between two defined groups, this has been anticipated by listing the species in both possible groups.

To get the most assistance from the Guide, it is essential to absorb the structure of the keys. I find there is a strong temptation to avoid using the key if the genus is familiar, and to simply short cut to the index to find the location of the sub-group containing the list of species. This may produce surprises - the species of one genus may be found in more than one place. One should bear in mind as well that not all species in the Flora are included in the Guide. A few rare or obscure species do not make the Guide, and in addition naturalised species or named hybrids are not all included in the key. This is another reason for a final check on the identification from the Flora.

Finally, for me an unanticipated bonus of the Guide was to improve my knowledge of botanical terminology because certain obscure ferns have their own specialist terminology. Fortunately all descriptive terms are listed with brief definitions in a glossary that is very convenient to use in these slim volumes. The guide is a serious botanical work and the terminology is scientific. This is an interesting, challenging and potentially useful work after users become familiar with its novel structure. It could only have been produced by a person with an intimate and encyclopedic knowledge of Australian ferns such as Calder Chaffey has.

The volumes may be obtained from the publisher, Natureview Publications, PO Box 130, Bangalow, NSW 2479 phone 0418 377 527 or from Florilegium, 145 St John's Road, Glebe. Phone 02 9571 8222 (10% discount for APS members). The prices are \$26.95 (vol. 1) and 29.95 (vol. 2).

Native Fern Hybrids

Lorraine Deppeler, well-known to you all as the owner of **The Bush House Nursery, Allansford, Victoria** writes:

“Just a few thoughts for the ASGAP Fern Study Group Newsletter that may create some discussion.

It would be interesting to research and record information on our native fern hybrids. There are many that have been propagated over the years and some of them are quite worthwhile plants. It would be sad to see that information lost.

Cyathea cooperi cv. *Cinnamon* is one that comes to mind. Does anyone know how or where this lovely tree fern originated?

Blechnum wattsii x *minus* is another. I assume it is a natural hybrid. It has been around in the nursery trade for some years, but I would be interested to know its distribution in Australia and where it first originated. *Blechnum wattsii* x *minus* is fertile, and I have propagated plants from the spore. I have found an area near Warrnambool that has a natural population with *Blechnum minus* growing nearby, but no *Blechnum wattsii* around.”

Great suggestion Lorraine!

Many thanks to **Bea Duncan, Bill Hardin and Maurice Haenke** for sending me collections of old Fern Study Group Newsletters. I also received an unexpected e-mail from Mary Hounslow, Serials Librarian of the State Library of NSW, Sydney offering me copies of any in their collection I do not have, as well as a list of old newsletters needed to complete their collection. I wonder if Mary reads all the newsletters she receives! Anyway, now I have enough for an almost complete set for myself as well as enough to almost complete the Mitchell Library collection. The missing volumes are 1-7, however, I am not sure how formal the early communications were. If you are keen to complete your set I may be able to help.

current spore list from Barry White.

<i>Acrostichum</i> sp. 6/04	<i>Dennstaedtia davallioides</i> 2/04
<i>Adiantum formosum</i> 6/04	<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i> 2/04
<i>Arachniodes aristata</i> 12/03	<i>Doodia media</i> 2/04
<i>Blechnum camfieldii</i> 9/02	<i>Histiopteris incisa</i> 5/02
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i> 5/03	<i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i> 2/04
<i>Blechnum minus</i> 7/04	<i>Hypolepis rugosula</i> 5/02
<i>Blechnum patersonii</i> 6/04	<i>Lastreopsis acuminata</i> 10/04
<i>Blechnum watsii</i> 5/02	<i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i> 3/03
<i>Blechnum watsii</i> (bifurcated) 5/03	<i>Platynerium superbum</i> 8/04
<i>Christella dentata</i> 4/04	<i>Polystichum australiense</i> 2/04
<i>Cyathea australis</i> 6/04	<i>Polystichum fallax</i> 4/02
<i>Cyathea brownii</i> 2/04	<i>Pteris tremula</i> 2/04
<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> 1/04	<i>Pteris umbrosa</i> 3/04
<i>Cyathea leichhardtiana</i> 6/04	<i>Pteris vittata</i> 3/03
<i>Cyathea robusta</i> 4/02	

Statement of Receipts and Payments for 2004

Receipts	2004	2003
Member subscriptions	315	500
Donations:		
ASGAP regions	90	80
Members	----	45
Newsletter colour plate (RW)	----	137.50
Sydney raffles	---	21
Bank interest	210.27	193.16
Total receipts	615.27	976.66

Payments

Newsletters: paper and printing	306.79	536.85
Postage etc: newsletters	174.65	224.38
Correspondence	9.50	22.85
Stationery	27.98	-----
Bank charges	-----	-----
Total Payments	518.92	784.08

Cash in bank Dec. 2003	5046.52 (plus cash in hand 31.00)
Cash in bank Dec 2004	5142.87 (plus cash in hand 31.00)

Comments: Some major differences between the 2003 and 2004 statements require comment. As there was no November 2004 newsletter, the requests for payment of subscriptions for 2005 did not get sent out. The many payments normally received at this time of year and included in the previous year's statement were not included in the 2004 accounts. However, the shortfall in income was effectively balanced by no expenditure for the November newsletter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005 ARE NOW DUE - PLEASE FIND A SUBSCRIPTION SLIP WITH THIS NEWSLETTER. Subs are still only \$5. Please forward your remittance to the Treasurer.