

A.N.P.S.A. Fern Study Group

Newsletter Number 117

ISSN 1837-008X

DATE: July 2009

LEADER: Peter Bostock, , Qld 4069. Tel. a/h 07 32026983,
email: pbostock@ozemail.com.au

TREASURER: Dan Johnston. Qld 4556. Tel 07 5445 6069,
email: dan.johnston@uqconnect.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Dan Johnston, contact as above.

SPORE BANK: Barry White,

From the editor

As ASGAP has renamed itself ANPSA – Australian Native Plants Society (Australia), the name of our group and our newsletter also need to change as you see in the title above. The rules for periodical publications also mean that we must have a new ISSN.

The visit of the British Pteridological Society has been a major activity and this newsletter reflects that with extensive reports of those activities. I'm also pleased to include a couple of general interest questions from two members, Dot Camp and my wife, Wendy Johnston.

Forthcoming Events in the Sydney Region *Peter Hind*

Saturday 18th July

Meet from about 11am at Dot's place,
species in Australia. If lost, phone Dot

We will be studying *Asplenium*

Saturday 15th August

Meet about 10.30am at the fernery in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Bring picnic lunch if you wish and it's best to use public transport. Martin Place and St James are the nearest Railway stations. I will be leading us around the fern collection. Contact me, Peter Hind, on (02) 96258705 if you need more information.

Saturday 19th September

Meet from about 11am at the Bankstown Native Garden, Sylvan Grove, off Henry Lawson Drive at Picnic Point. Bring packed lunch & perhaps a folding chair to sit on at lunch time.

Saturday 17th October

Meet at about 11am at the suburban home of Margaret and Peter Olde,
We plan to study *Nephrolepis* and if time permits *Microsorium*. Our last visit here was in 2005. It will be good to see Margaret's fern collection again.

Saturday 21st November

Meet at Margaret and Peter Olde's Country Residence

All outings are subject to weather conditions being favourable.

Peter Hind 96258705

Program for South-east Queensland Region

Dan Johnston

Sunday, 5th July, 2009

Meeting at 9:30am the home of Ray and Noreen Baxter,
Microsorium.

Topic:

Sunday, 2nd August, 2009

Excursion to Venman Bushland National Park. Meet at 9:30am at the picnic area at the end of Venman Road (off Mount Cotton Road). UBD Street directory: Map 244 Grid reference: E3.

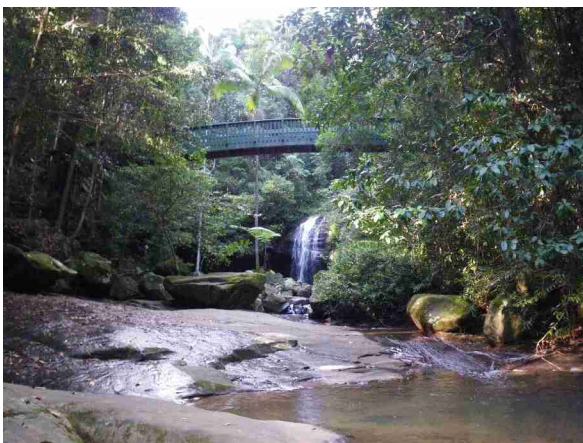
Friday, 18th September to Sunday, 20th September, 2009

SGAP(Qld) Flower Show at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. Members will set up the fern display on Friday.

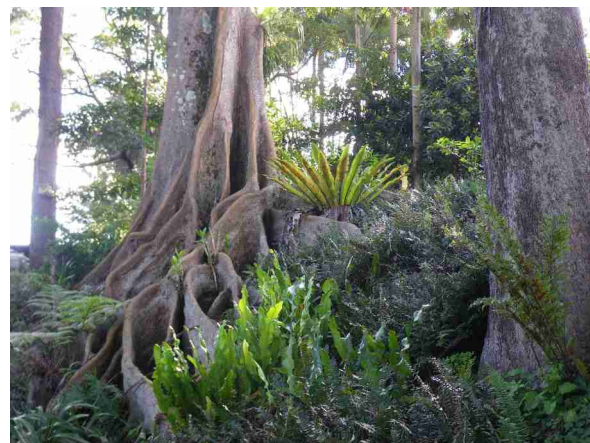
Sunday, 4th October, 2009

Meet at 9:30am at the Edna Walling Memorial Garden/Quorn Close entrance to Buderim Forest Park. In the Sunshine Coast section of the Brisbane UBD street directory, this is Map 78, reference G1. Directions: At the main roundabout in the centre of Buderim, take the road going downhill (Lindsay Rd). After about 150m a creek will be crossed. Then take the first road on the right (Quorn Close). Follow its winds to its end. (When you get to a roundabout, go left to stay on Quorn Close.)

We propose taking the short circuit walk there (about 0.7km), largely through rainforest. After that, we will go to Wendy and Dan Johnston's home



Buderim Forest Park



our garden

Sunday, 1st November, 2008.

Excursion to Olive and David Hockings' property

Meet at 9:30am.

Sunday, 6th December, 2009.

Meeting at 9:30am at Rod Pattison's home and Plant swap.

for Christmas Party

Sunday, February 7th, 2010.

Meeting at 9:30am at Peter Bostock's home

Topic to be decided.

BPS Visit Reports

Victorian Segment

Barry White

Twelve members of the British Pteridological Society gathered in Melbourne on Monday 13th April for a fern tour of Eastern Australia. The group included six from England, four from France, a German and an Aussie.

After overnighting in Macedon the group travelled in three hire cars to the first port of call which was Chris and Lorraine's nursery in Lara. Although the severe water restrictions have affected both Chris's commercial fern nursery and his private fern collection, he still has one of the best collections in Australia. After a couple of hours at Chris and Lorraine's place the group proceeded to Lorne for a seaside lunch and then drove along the Great Ocean Road to Kennett River, then along the Grey River Road a few kilometres to the Grey River Reserve. This moist area is dominated by large specimens of *Dicksonia antarctica* which are well covered with filmy ferns and *Microsorium pustulatum*. The understory features mainly *Lastreopsis acuminata* and *Asplenium bulbiferum ssp bulbiferum*. Three species of *Blechnum* were also noted along the creek.

The overnight stay was at the seaside resort of Apollo Bay. Next day the early morning thunder storms and a blackout were of concern but the day turned out reasonable. The first stop was at Mait's Rest, a short distance from Apollo Bay and one of Victoria's premier fern spots with four types of tree ferns, large amounts of filmy ferns, and some beautiful specimens of two of the less common ferns *Lastreopsis hispida* and *Asplenium flaccidum*.

The next stop was to an area known as "Beauty Spot" which is the old road leading up to Laver's Hill. Both sides of the old road have lush fern growth again dominated by *Dicksonia antarctica* and with a similar understory to the Grey River Reserve although with fewer filmy ferns. A short distance past Laver's Hill is Melba Gully State Park, also one of Victoria's best fern spots. The ferns here were similar to Mait's Rest except for the absence of *Lastreopsis hispida*.

The group returned to Laver's Hill for lunch and then proceeded to "Mr Fern Nursery" in Amiet's Rd, Wyelangta, run by Les and Rosemary Vulcz. Les and Rosemary run an export business with tree-ferns using ferns harvested prior to forest logging and also increasingly from their own paddocks of cultivated tree-ferns. After a lavish afternoon tea, the group travelled along the fern lined Turton's Track and headed back to Macedon.

On Wednesday 15th April the group headed north of Melbourne to the bushfire ravaged area of Kinglake to visit the nursery of Robyn and Eddie Sabljak. Their "Fern Acres Nursery" was in the midst of the burnt area but an all-night effort by Eddie saved the nursery and it virtually came through unscathed. The drive through the area was disturbing with the burnt out homes and the blackened paddocks. The fires occurred two months earlier but the paddocks had a green tinge, many eucalypts had a column of new growth, the larger and thicker tree-ferns had new fronds, bracken fronds were reappearing and some *Polystichum proliferum* ferns were showing new fronds. The next visit was to Wirrawilla Walk just north east of Toolangi and another spot which was very fortunate not to be burnt. This walk is confined to a boardwalk and was showing the effects of the drought. The filmy ferns were mostly dehydrated but other ferns were still looking good. The *Sticherus urceolatus* and *S. tener* featured prominently and also the large moss *Dawsonia superba*.

After a late lunch in Healesville most of the group headed for the Badger Weir Reserve except for a few who decided to see the Australia animals at the Healesville Zoo. The Badger Creek Reserve was also somewhat dry and the visit was rushed because for the lateness of the day. Of note were the very tall specimens of *Cyathea australis* and *C. cunninghamii*, also the *Tmesipteris obliqua*. After a too short visit the two groups re-gathered and returned to base in Macedon.

South-east Queensland Segment

Claire Shackel

The members of the BPS arrived in Brisbane late on the 24th April for a busy three days. On Saturday the group was greeted by Queensland members of the fern study group at Rod Pattison's home. After introductions and morning tea the group had a guided tour of Rod's rainforest garden. Rod has a large number of both native and exotic fern species. There were some spirited discussions about various fern names and origins.

For lunch the group moved to the Shackel's home where the Qld members had provided the goodies. Here the BPS members viewed my ferns from spore propagation shade house and the native fern house. Also of interest was *Marsilea* sporocarps that were much photographed. To finish the day the party visited the Brisbane Botanic Gardens where there is an elegant fern house. They were impressed by the lush native and exotic ferns, including a good selection of *Pteris* cultivars.

Sunday saw the BPS members and the Qld contingent meet on the Springbrook Plateau to walk the Tallanbana/Twin Falls Circuit. The fern list from our visit in March 2008 was given out and all ferns were seen and *Lindsaea linearis*, *Arachniodes aristata* and *Lastreopsis microsora* were added to the list. After a late lunch the Best of All Lookout was visited and ferns seen on the March excursion were revisited

On Monday it was up to Mt. Glorious to walk the Greene's Falls track. A good variety of ferns were seen (see list) and Peter found some *Crepidomanes vitiense* to show the visitors. A BPS member wanted to see *Cyathea cooperi* in the wild (a very common garden plant in Brisbane) and in spite of plenty of *Cyathea leichhardtiana* on this track, only two very slender living specimens of *C. cooperi* could be found. We estimated their trunks to be about 12 metres tall.

Lunch was at the café at Maiala where the visitors were treated to an interesting display by some persistent kookaburras trying to steal lunch. They were very well photographed.

After lunch the walk was along the top of the ridge at Mt Tenison Woods as one of the BPS members wanted to see *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* (not a fern) in the wild. This involved quite a hike up and down small hills along the ridge following a forestry road and in and out of open forest and rainforest.

To finish off the BPS visit to Brisbane we all went to George and Marion Cornwell's home which is below Mt. Glorious for afternoon tea and a final farewell. A very enjoyable three days were had by all. Not all local members were available all three days but the combined group consisted of about 20 people each day.

Ferns observed at Maiala (in order of sighting):

Hypolepis glandulifera, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Lastreopsis microsora*, *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hypoglaucom*, *Cyathea leichhardtiana*, *Doodia aspera*, *Lastreopsis smithiana*, *Doodia caudata*, *Adiantum diaphanum*, *Arthropteris beckleri*, *Crepidomanes vitiense*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Pellaea paradoxa*, *Blechnum patersonii*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea cooperi*, *Diplazium assimile*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, *Dictymia brownii*, *Adiantum formosum*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*.

Ferns observed at Mt Tenison Woods:

Cyathea leichhardtiana, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Doodia caudata*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Doodia aspera*, *Adiantum formosum*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Cyathea australis*, *Adiantum atroviride*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Dictymia brownii*, *Pteris tremula*, *Arthropteris tenella*.

Mt Glorious (Maiala and Mt Tenison Woods)* Pat Acock (BPS) & Peter Bostock

We were piloted to Maiala, Mt Glorious (S27°20'01.1" E152°45'47.9") through the western suburbs of Brisbane by Dan and Wendy Johnston, who were staying close by. We met up with many of the people who had joined us over the previous days and our leader Peter Bostock, at a barbeque area and set off on a circular walk of some 4.3km. The wood was much drier than yesterday in Springbrook National Park. Here we observed a subset of yesterday's ferns with a few absentees being supplemented by *Macrothelypteris torresiana* and *Cyathea cooperi*, which was only represented by two towering dead plants and two similar ones alive. We also found the delightful *Pellaea paradoxa*. We had speculated earlier in Victoria whether we had seen this plant but when we were shown the real plant it was obvious that we had not. We found it difficult to believe it was a fern until we found a fertile frond. At the top of the waterfall we saw two large clumps of *Dictymia brownii* and *Arthropteris tenella* luxuriating in the higher humidity. Under the waterfall was very disappointing with only a few common ferns. In the canopy *Asplenium australasicum* was common but *Platynerium*

bifurcatum was only seen in the barbeque and lunch area. On arriving back at the cars Geoff and Merle Goadby served hot drinks and cake.

At lunch we were quickly served despite there being over 22 of us. We were kept amused by the birds especially the Kookaburra. One especially had its eyes on Barry White's potato wedges. It bided its time and struck suddenly. Standing outside the café it was amazing how quickly the species list mounted by just standing still and looking. *Davallia pyxidata* and *Platynerium bifurcatum* were surprisingly growing in conifers with *Diplazium australe*, *Adiantum silvaticum* and *Christella dentata* under the hedgerow.

In the afternoon we had a short walk close to Mt Tenison Woods, D'Aguilar Forest Reserve (S27°17'49.6" E152°45'14.4") to look at the two cycads *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* and *Macrozamia lucida*.

On the way up the trail the wood was very different to that of the morning. It was surprising to see *Platynerium bifurcatum* colonising quite small trees right down to the ground.

The bracken look alike, *Calochlaena dubia*, was much in evidence but it was the Adiantums that were abundant in the bank sides that caught our eye. *Adiantum hispidulum* was dominant in places but never overbearingly so as it is in Macronesia and other places where it has escaped from its home environment. *A. formosum* was also much in evidence and growing to 30cm or more but it was the *A. atroviride* that stood out. Our host for the day, Peter Bostock, had recently separated this plant from *A. aethiopicum* and the differences were quite noticeable at this early stage in the season. *Adiantum atroviride* is distinguished from *A. aethiopicum* by the darker colour of the stipe, the rachis and the lamina. The scales of *A. atroviride* here are triangular, ciliate and dark-brown compared to *A. aethiopicum* which are thin yellowish and entire.

We then drove to George and Marian Cornwell's garden for tea and a proper chance to say our farewells to those who had so kindly and patiently looked after us on the previous days in the Brisbane area.

*this item will also appear in the newsletter of the British Pteridological Society, and may differ slightly from this version.



British Pteridological Society members and local members at Maiaia.

Standing L-R: Claire Shackel, Don Shackel, Ray Baxter, Agnes Boudrie, Annie Prelli, Michel Boudrie, Grace Acock, Klaus Mehlreter, Alan Ogden, Remy Prelli, Martin Rickard, Merle Goadby, Pat Acock.

Sitting L-R: Barry White, Noreen Baxter, George Cornwell, Robert Sykes, Geoff Goadby, Peter Bostock, Wendy Johnston, Dan Johnston, Jennifer Ide.

Other Sydney Meeting Reports

Sonter's Fern Nursery

Dot Camp

Our visit to Sonter's Wholesale Fern Nursery on Saturday 20th June 2009 was a most interesting & informative day. This nursery is a large commercial operation supplying ferns, both native & exotic to large retail stores such as K-mart, Bunnings etc. as well as conventional nurseries. The nursery also supplies cut foliage to the florist trade, mainly the cape form of *Rumohra adiantiformis*.

David Sonter began the day with a short history of the nursery. In the early 1960's David's grandmother asked the family to 'look after' her ferns. So, the ferns travelled to Griffith for 9 years & then to Glenhaven, where the nursery began & later moved to the current site at Winmalee. Originally many of the ferns were tissue cultured but now all the ferns are produced from spore.

David has evolved a very fast (& secret) method of producing ferns from spore. Production time from spore to sporelings is 21–40 days & then to being potted ready for market a further 23 weeks. Wow! Two ferns of special interest were a *Blechnum* sp. or hybrid similar to *Blechnum cartilagineum* & with David's gift to us of a plant; we will be able to follow its progress. Also, a very unusual & robust form of what we thought was *Microsorium pustulatum*.

David was very generous with his time & information. We were all very impressed with the size of the nursery & the health of the plants without the use of a regular fungal spray program. However, there is a continuing problem with liverworts and they have to be weeded by hand.

Other South-east Queensland Meeting Reports

May 2009 Meeting at Upper Mt Gravatt

Claire Shackel

Being only a week after the British Pteridological Society visit, the May meeting was only attended by a small group. After organizing the program for the next six months, the group then went to the bush house area to view my propagation of ferns from spore. The members were given young plants of a crested *Blechnum cartilagineum* var. *tropica* (spore from Rod Pattison) and some other small ferns to pot up and take home.

Jolly's Lookout to Boombana – Thylogale track

Claire Shackel

On the 7th June nine members met in the pouring rain at Jolly's Lookout. Members left Brisbane in bright sunshine and after an hour the storm cleared and the sun shone. The ferns were at their best after the rain. The 4km track was lined with ferns all the way with large patches of *Doodias* and an array of variations in *Adiantum hispidulum*. Some were large and glaucous ie. *A. hispidulum* var. *hypoglaucum* and others were harsh little ferns i.e. *A. hispidulum* var. *hispidulum* and all variations in between.

Peter was excited to find *Adiantum silvaticum* which is quite rare in Brisbane Forest Park. The tiny epiphytic filmy fern, *Crepidomanes vitiense*, was an unexpected bonus. We didn't identify the host tree, but Dr Bill McDonald (Queensland Herbarium) later suggested (on the basis of photographs of the trunk) that it might be *Niemeyera chartacea*.

Adiantum silvaticum



Ferns observed:

Doodia caudata, *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Doodia australis*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *Adiantum formosum*, *Adiantum atroviride*, *Davallia pyxidata*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *Doodia aspera*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Pellaea paradoxa*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Pellaea nana*, *Lastreopsis*

marginans, *Asplenium attenuatum*, *Pellaea* sp. (an unnamed form with moderately small rectangular pinnae found in various vine scrubs in Queensland; one of its variants seems to be the 'Silver Pellaea' from north Qld), *Pteris tremula*, *Drynaria rigidula*, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, *Platycterium superbum*, *Crepidomanes vitiense*, *Arachniodes aristata*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Adiantum silvaticum*[#], *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Calochlaena dubia*.

[#]a new record for Brisbane Forest Park and first official collection from former Enoggera State Forest.

Other Articles

Platycterium superbum

Dot Camp

I have a beautiful *P. superbum* attached to a tree in the driveway of my home. As you can see by the photo, the fern is very large, but it has not produced fertile fronds. So, what determines when the fertile fronds will be produced, is it size, plant age, situation or something else? Does anyone have any suggestions?



Behaviour of *Pellaea paradoxa*

Wendy Johnston

When we moved from Brisbane to Buderim on Qld's Sunshine Coast (100km away) we brought with us some garden ferns. Among these were pieces of *Pellaea paradoxa*. It had been in the garden in Brisbane for more than 10 years through wet and dry years and was very long creeping and sparse – at least 50 cm between fronds. When replanted in the rich volcanic Buderim soil they settled in quickly, becoming a relatively concentrated patch with at most 10 cm between fronds. This still qualifies as long-creeping but is the difference between a good show and being straggly and lost amongst everything else. The soil in the Brisbane garden was quite good by Brisbane standards.

don't develop, or is the soil causing the distance to alter? I hadn't thought of ferns as being big feeders.



Is the inter-frond distance on the rhizome predetermined – appearing longer when fronds

Spore List June 2009

Barry White

Acrostichum speciosum 4/09
Adiantum formosum 3/08
Amphineuron opulentum 4/09
Asplenium aethiopicum 12/07
Asplenium australasicum 1/08
Asplenium nidus 5/08
Asplenium nidus cv. 5/08
Blechnum ambiguum 1/08
Blechnum chambersii 9/07
Blechnum fluviatile 9/07
Blechnum gregsonii 4/09
Blechnum watsii 12/08
Chingia australis 12/08
Christella parasitica 4/09
Christella subpubescens 12/08
Cyathea australis 4/08
Cyathea baileyana 12/08
Cyathea brownii -/07
Cyathea cooperi 1/09
Cyathea cooperi (blue stipe) 1/07
Cyathea cooperi 'Brentwood' 3/08
Cyathea cunninghamii -/07
Cyathea felina 10/08
Dicksonia antarctica 8/08
Diplazium australe 4/08
Doodia australis 12/08
Hypolepis glandulifera 12/08
Hypolepis rugosula 2/07
Lastreopsis acuminata 12/08
Lastreopsis marginans 1/07
Microsorium punctatum 1/09
Ophioglossum pendulum 7/08
Platycterium bifurcatum 'Hula Hands' 10/07
Platycterium bifurcatum 'Venosum' (Mt. Lewis) 10/07
Platycterium superbum 4/08
Platycterium veitchii 10/07
Pleisioneuron tuberculatum 12/08
Pneumatopteris sogerensis 12/08
Pneumatopteris costata 12/08
Polystichum formosum 3/08
Polystichum proliferum 11/08
Pronephrium asperum 2/07
Pteris umbrosa /08
Revwattsia fragilis 12/08
Sphaerostephanos heterocarpus 7/08
Stenochlaena palustris 2/07

Thank you to the following spore donors: Don Fuller, Nada Sankowsky, Kylie Stocks, Neville Crawford, Wendy Johnston, Claire Shackel, Dot Camp, and Crosby Chase.



Pellaea 'Silver', also called *Pellaea* 'Herberton'. Cultivated in Bellbowrie.

ASGAP Fern Study Group Fees for 2009-2010 *Dan Johnston, treasurer*

The annual subscription to the Fern Study Group is \$5 for a single person or more than one person receiving a single copy of the Fern Group Newsletter.

If you get your newsletter by mail, the address label will show your current paid-to date:

June 2006	Payment of \$20 is now due.
June 2007	Payment of \$15 is now due.
June 2008	Payment of \$10 is now due.
June 2009	Payment of \$5 for the coming year is now due.
June 2010	or later. You have already paid for the coming year.

We accept payments for up to 4 years in advance. i.e. \$20 if you are currently up to date to June 2009.

If you receive your newsletter by email, you will be advised in a separate email of your paid-to date.

Methods of payment:

- In person at a Queensland group meeting.
- By cheque or money order posted to me:
Dan Johnston,

- By electronic bank transfer. You can transfer into our account