



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

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SPORE BANK:

From the editor

Thanks to Dot and Merle for their meeting reports, to Claire and Wendy for articles and to Barry for the spore list. As this newsletter was looking rather thin, I have included some material relating to Lord Howe Island, which Wendy and I have recently visited. This is only a very small sample of the wonderful range of ferns there.

Program for South-east Queensland Region

Dan Johnston

Sunday, 7th March, 2010.

Excursion to Bryces Road, Brisbane Forest Park. Meet at 9:30am on the roadside near Camp Constable (between Mt Glorious Cafe and entrance road to Maijala National Park.) Weather is likely to be feral, so bring raingear!

Saturday, 1st May, 2010 to Monday, 3rd May, 2010.

Excursion concentrating on the Dorrigo area of Northern NSW. Current intentions are to seek motel accommodation in Coffs Harbour. Please register interest with Peter by phone or email as soon as possible.

Sunday, 6th June, 2010.

Meet at 9:30am at Claire Shackel's place,

Subject: Fern propagation.

Sunday, 4th July, 2010.

Excursion to Gheerulla Falls area near Mapleton. The start of the walk is about 4km west of Mapleton on Delicia Road. The starting point is in a saddle of the ridge along which Delicia Road runs where the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk walking track meets the road. This is at grid reference R7 on Map 53 in the Sunshine Coast section of the Brisbane UBD Street Directory. (Older versions of the street directory have a gap in Delicia Road.) From the centre of Mapleton, initially take Obi Obi Road west, and then after 100m or so, turn right into Delicia Road.

The current plan is to take the walking track which follows the Gheerulla Creek. This is a distance of about 8km with a drop in height of about 200m. After about 1km, we go past the base of Gheerulla Falls. There is a variety of vegetation. My somewhat vague memory is that it is a bit weedy initially, then some rainforest, and then, for the majority of the walk, open forest. A car shuffle will be necessary.

Sunday, 1st August, 2010. Meeting. Venue and topic to be decided.

Friday, 3rd September, 2010 to Sunday, 5th September, 2010.

Setup and manning of display at the SGAP Spring Flower Show at the Auditorium, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Road, Toowong.

Sunday, 3rd October, 2010.

Excursion to Buderim Forest Park. The current intention is to walk the path following the creek from one end of the park to the other. More detail will be provided in the next newsletter.

Forthcoming Events in the Sydney Region

Peter Hind

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 March, at Verdigris Nursery, Currowan Creek, (02)44781311

email: verdigrisferns@gmail.com.

Kylie and Dwayne Stocks run a specialist fern nursery located at the foot of the Clyde Mountain Range about 25 km inland from Batemans Bay NSW. We will meet at midday on Saturday for lunch, then an inspection of the nursery, followed by a BBQ in the evening (BYO everything). On Sunday we will visit Penance Grove in nearby Monga National Park, meeting at 10am. For detailed travel instructions, see the previous newsletter 118 (November, 2009).

Saturday 18 April, Meet from about 11am at Dot's place.
Microsorium species in Australia. If lost phone Dot on

We will be studying

Saturday 15 May. Forest Island Track, Royal National Park. Meet from about 9.30 am for a 10 am start. An easy walk on a well graded track with ferns along most of it. Parking available at the side of Bertrand Stevens Drive, near the gate at the southern end of Lady Carrington Drive. Enter the park from the Waterfall entrance. There is an entry fee. Bring picnic or packed lunch & water, sunscreen, hat etc.

Saturday 19 June, Meet from about 11am at the home of Ron and Paula Wilkins.

Best to park in nearby Cheltenham Road and walk in. Study of fern roots and rhizomes.

Saturday 17 July Meet from 9.30am

Property

of Anne and Geoffrey Long. Private walking trails in good examples of Illawarra rainforest and wet sclerophyll tall Eucalypt forest. Since our last outing in March 2004 many more kilometres of trails have been blazed. Bring packed lunch etc.



Microsorium scolopendria, cultivated Brisbane ex Cape York. Note very slender rhizome.

All outings are subject to weather conditions being favourable. Check for bushfire danger before any Bushwalks. If fire danger is imminent consider it cancelled.

Peter Hind 96258705

Sydney Meeting Reports

Visit to Margaret & Peter Olde's garden 21st November, 2009

Dot Camp

A dozen members of the Fern Study Group enjoyed visiting Margaret & Peter's 'botanical like' garden

Margaret's ferns have settled in quickly to create a beautiful natural looking environment, growing around a meandering stream that flows through the very large fernery. Peter's passion for grevilleas is very much on show with an amazing display of these plants, along with many seldom seen (on the east coast) Western Australian native plants.

Thank you Margaret & Peter for sharing your garden with us & for your generous hospitality.

South-east Queensland Meeting Reports

Fern List - Hockings' Property,

1 November, 2009.

Merle Gynther

The following list is restricted to the creek area. It does not include any of the interesting "volunteers" from the nursery.

Adiantum hispidulum, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *Christella dentata*, *Cyathea rebecca*, *Cyathea cooperi* – Eungella form, *Doodia aspera*, *Doodia caudata*, *Lastreopsis decomposita*, *Lastreopsis marginans*, *Lastreopsis munita*, *Platycerium bifurcatum*, *Platycerium superbum*, *Pyrrosia confluens*, *Pyrrosia rupestris*.

Other Articles

Lord Howe Island Ferns

Dan Johnston



Lord Howe Island from Mt Gower,
Mt Lidgbird in the right foreground.

My wife, Wendy, and I recently had a week's holiday on Lord Howe Island with members of a bushwalking group of which we are members. We were most impressed with the number and variety of ferns there. There are many species endemic to the island: ferns, other plants, and birds. The island is rather isolated being about 600km NE of Sydney and SE of Brisbane, about the same latitude as Port Macquarie on the NSW mid-north coast. Administratively, it is part of NSW. It is about 10km long (north to south) and 1km to 2km wide. It has rather nice coral reefs down much of the western side – claimed to be the most southerly coral reefs in the world. At the southern end there are two spectacular peaks, Mt Gower and Mt Lidgbird, rising to 850m.

Both mountains are largely surrounded by cliffs. Mt Gower has a small plateau on top which is a great area for ferns. Local guides run full day guided walks to Mt Gower. This is rather a challenging walk, including a section along a rather exposed ledge and some rather steep rock scrambling. Fixed ropes are in place in both these sections to assist the walker. Visitors are only permitted to visit Mt Gower with a guide. The top of Mt Lidgbird is much more difficult to access and doesn't have a plateau area. There is a track to the base of the cliffs at about 450m on Mt Lidgbird at "Goat House Cave" and some of the higher altitude ferns can be found nearby. (A number of feral animals that were formerly on Lord Howe Island, (goats, cats, pigs) have been eradicated and there has also been great work done on reducing the weed presence.)

The ferns of Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island are not covered in with the other Australian ferns in “Flora of Australia” Volume 48, but are covered in the separate volume 49 devoted to the flora of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands which like volume 48 is available online. It can be accessed at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/flora/49/index.html>

According to Flora of Australia there are five *Blechnums* indigenous to the island of which three are endemic. We saw areas of the familiar *B. patersonii* on Mt Gower. However, (as noted in the flora) it seemed to have only the simple frond form.

We saw *B. howeanum* both on Mt Gower and near the Goat House Cave. The distinctive fertile frond is quite unlike anything I have seen before.



Blechnum patersonii



Blechnum howeanum

I thought that *B. contiguum*, also quite common on Mt Gower, was a particularly beautiful fern. It was epiphytic and again dramatically dimorphic. It has a large scaly climbing rhizome, and very fine fertile fronds.



B. contiguum (on tree fern)



Fertile fronds



Rhizome (on different tree fern)

This is only a very small sample of the many ferns on Lord Howe Island. Tree ferns (4 endemic *Cyathea* species) are common, particularly at higher altitudes. On the top of Mt Gower, some branches were covered in filmies, and others were loaded with *Grammitis* spp. Common ferns in the lower areas included *Asplenium milnei*, *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Microsorium pustulatum*, and *Platycterium bifurcatum*.

Cania Gorge National Park—Dripping Rock

Claire Shackel

On a recent trip to central Queensland, Don and I had a couple of hours available so stopped at Cania Gorge National Park off the Monto/Biloela road. It was extremely dry and the only walk that promised any likelihood of ferns was Dripping Rock. The path initially crossed Three Moon Creek and over a low ridge and there was not a green blade of grass to be seen. On entering the next creek bed the vegetation changed to very distressed rainforest and there was very distressed *Adiantum formosum* in the understory. Other shriveled ferns that could be recognized were *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium attenuatum*, *Pellaea nana*, *Pteris tremula* and *Pteridium esculentum*.

The track led up beside a boulder strewn creek where dry shriveled mosses covered the sandstone rocks. As the track became steeper we entered a different world. Dripping Rock was still dripping in spite of the harsh surrounding conditions and had created its own moist environment. *Cyathea australis* formed part of the canopy and *Blechnum cartilagineum* and *Calochlaena dubia* were in the understory with *Drynaria rigidula* inhabiting the exposed rocks. Under the actual drips *Sticherus flabellatus* and *Gleichenia dicarpa* grew in profusion. It was a place well worth a visit and in moister time many more ferns would probably be found.

Hybrids of *Asplenium pellucidum*

Wendy Johnston

At the February South-East Qld Fern Study Meeting we looked at *Aspleniums*. My specimen of *Asplenium pellucidum* was thought to be a hybrid of *Asplenium pellucidum*. It had the right number (20–30) of pinnule pairs but the fronds were too long i.e. the pinnules were well separated. I realised I had at home three pots labelled *A. pellucidum* and so I got the other two out. I believe all three came from the same spore pot and had been treated similarly. Each had 25–30 pinnule pairs on each frond. In one, the biggest frond measured 75cm (it makes a good hanging basket), in the second the longest frond measured 55cm and in the third, which is a brighter green and has the pinnules much closer together, the maximum frond length is 40cm—still longer than the Flora suggests for *A. pellucidum*.



This one has fronds that are up to 75 cm.



This one has fronds that are up to 55 cm.



This one looks like *Asplenium pellucidum* and has fronds to 40cm.

Spore List

Barry White

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|--|---|
| <i>Acrostichum speciosum</i> 4/09 | <i>Diplazium assimile</i> 6/09 |
| <i>Adiantum formosum</i> 3/08 | <i>Doodia australe</i> 12/08 |
| <i>Amphineuron opulentum</i> 4/09 | <i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i> 12/08 |
| <i>Asplenium australasicum</i> 1/08 | <i>Hypolepis rugosula</i> 2/07 |
| <i>Asplenium nidus</i> 5/08 | <i>Lastreopsis acuminata</i> 12/08 |
| <i>Asplenium nidus</i> cv. 5/08 | <i>Lastreopsis decomposita</i> 6/09 |
| <i>Blechnum ambiguum</i> 1/08 | <i>Lastreopsis marginans</i> 1/07 |
| <i>Blechnum chambersii</i> 9/07 | <i>Ophioglossum pendulum</i> 7/08 |
| <i>Blechnum fluviatile</i> 9/07 | <i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i> 'Hula Hands' 10/07 |
| <i>Blechnum gregsonii</i> 4/09 | <i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i> 'Venosum' (Mt. Lewis) 10/07 |
| <i>Blechnum spicant</i> 7/08 | <i>Platynerium superbum</i> 4/08 |
| <i>Blechnum watsii</i> 12/08 | <i>Platynerium veitchii</i> 10/07 |
| <i>Christella parasitica</i> 4/09 | <i>Pleisioneuron tuberculatum</i> 12/08 |
| <i>Christella subpubescens</i> 12/08 | <i>Pneumatopteris sogerensis</i> 12/08 |
| <i>Cyathea australis</i> 4/08 | <i>Pneumatopteris costata</i> 12/08 |
| <i>Cyathea baileyana</i> 12/08 | <i>Polystichum formosum</i> 6/09 |
| <i>Cyathea cooperi</i> 1/09 | <i>Polystichum proliferum</i> 11/08 |
| <i>Cyathea cooperi</i> (blue stipe) 1/07 | <i>Pronephrium asperum</i> 2/07 |
| <i>Cyathea cooperi</i> 'Brentwood' 3/08 | <i>Pteris umbrosa</i> /08 |
| <i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i> /07 | <i>Revwattsia fragile</i> 12/08 |
| <i>Cyathea felina</i> 10/08 | <i>Sphaerostephanos heterocarpus</i> 7/08 |
| <i>Dicksonia antarctica</i> 8/08 | |
| <i>Diplazium australe</i> 4/08 | |

Spore donors have been a little bit sparse of late.