

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

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Dear Members,

There will be many things happening this year, but before I begin to talk about these, I want to say a very big HELLO to all members everywhere.

There are a lot of Sydney members who do not attend our meetings and outings. I would like to personally ask these members to come along and see for themselves "what it is all about". Our meetings are most informal and friendly. This invitation is also issued to all other members who may be in our area at the time of the meetings or outings.

This year the study of ferns, at meetings, will continue. Should you have a native fern which you cannot identify, bring it along to a meeting, where a member may be able to give the fern a name, otherwise it can be forwarded to the Herbarium for identification.

It is intended to have line drawings and cultural notes of three ferns, in each issue of the newsletter. It is thought this could assist members, who are isolated from other members and have nobody to talk to about ferns.

During March, there is the trip to Burrendong Arboretum. The extension to the Tropical Shade Area could be completed this year should sufficient funds be made available. Already there are ferns available, with many more promised, for planting when the extension is completed. I hope to see a lot of members at this outing. Please come along, if only for one of the days. We pull out a few weeds, loosen the dirt around the ferns, and of course, talk FERNS. For those who like fishing, the fish could be biting as there will be plenty of water in the dam after all the rain.

The 1984 Wildflower Exhibition will be held at the Castle Hill Showground on 13th and 14th October. More about this in the next newsletter. The exhibition will be held a month later and this should suit the ferns as the weather will be warmer.

Always on the lookout for new places for group outings, we accepted an invitation from Bea and Roy Duncan to visit the Watagan State Forest. We went on a rainforest walk at the Wishing Well forest park. On this walk we counted thirty eight different ferns, but there are probably a lot more we did not see. This is a good area for ferns, but like most rainforest areas there are also a lot of leeches. We gained access to the Wishing Well, after driving through Morisset along Freemans Drive, we turned into Martinsville Road, and then into Martinsville Hill Forest Road.

I am greatly distressed by complaints from members who have been harassed by a person who has a strange way of getting ferns. This person went to a nursery and in the absence of the owner took some ferns from the private collection and left an amount of money, which the owner considered was below the value of the ferns. Members should not be subjected to this sort of treatment. I sincerely hope this matter has been satisfactorily resolved.

There is an open invitation to any member to call and see our fern collection. Please ring first, (02) 7056413.

EXCITING NEWS - BOOK PUBLICATION.

At the February meeting, Mr Bill Payne, Managing Editor, of Australian Plants, put a proposal to Group Members.

The N.S.W. Region of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, feels it has neglected the Fern Study Group so far as the non presentation of articles, relating to ferns, in the "Australian Plants". Space is one serious problem as more material is being received than can be published.

The Fern Study Group, is the most active Group in the Society, members fully man the fern display and organises the purchases and sale of ferns at the Annual Sydney Wildflower Exhibition.

The N.S.W. Region proposes to publish a book containing material relating to the growing of ferns. It is anticipated the book will be well presented and suitable for commercial distribution.

A Committee consisting of six Fern Study Group members has been formed to collate material for publication before presentation to the Editor who will be Mr Bill Payne.

The Committee appeals to members in all states to forward any suitable material such as :- colour slides of ferns, line drawings, photocopies of fern fronds, articles about ferns, growing from spore or any other such material.

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TO PHOTOCOPY A FERN FROND.

Select a good fern frond with spore pattern, if possible, and place between sheets of newspaper, overnight, to keep the frond quite flat.

Place frond, spore side down on bed of photocopier machine, place a sheet of white paper on top. Adjust the machine to a low light setting and complete the process.

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CURATOR SPORE BANK.

I am pleased to announce that that Sylvia Garlick has agreed to take over the spore bank, so please forward any spore you may collect, no matter how little the quantity, to Sylvia.

Until recently Sylvia was the seedbank curator for the Sutherland S.G.A.P. Group and is now keen to study the finer aspects of fern spore.

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THANK YOU.

To Merle & Allan Wood and Ann & Peter Gray, we thank you sincerely for a most enjoyable visit to your homes for our February outing.

The group enjoyed a pleasant stroll amongst large boulders tree ferns and ground ferns in areas which a short time ago was virgin bushland.

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DID YOU KNOW.

Sprinkle epsom salts around roots of Adiantum ferns after watering, results in lush growth.

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*Phyll Brown*

(Mrs) Phyll. Brown - Leader.  
Fern Study Group -S.G.A.P.