

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

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DEAR MEMBERS:

The winning ticket in the raffle for the watercolour painting of *Doodia aspera* was No. 2502 held by Mrs. J. Nolland of Annangrove. Mrs. Nolland said how thrilled she was to own the painting; she is an admirer of Betty Maloney's work and has copies of the artist's illustrated books in her library. Although sponsored by our Fern Group, the raffle quickly became a Society project with S.G.A.P. branches from as far north as Darwin, as far south as Hobart and as far west as Albany, supporting with enthusiasm this fund raising venture in aid of an Arboretum of native plants far from their own districts.

The sum raised was \$2,200.00, meaning that 2,200 tickets were sold. As the advertised time for closure of ticket sales drew near, Faye Low and I were besieged by eager buyers, with heads down we wrote furiously until time dictated that we must stop.

Our exhibit was by far the best yet arranged, with beautiful ferns from the Botanic Gardens and our members' ferneries, flanked on either side by exhibits of Cycads, Palms and flowering orchids. We are fortunate and proud to be associated with such a splendid and professional display of Australian flora as that organised by the Sutherland Group.

Phyll and Viv instigated a highly successful sale of ferns, selecting a range not usually on sale in Sydney - *Blechnum wurunuran*, *Lycopodium polytrichoides*, *L. proliferum*, *L. squarrosum* - *Ophioglossum pendulum* and the rarer, *Cyathea baileyana* (wig fern), *C. rebecca* and *C. woolsiana*, were among those plants snapped up by a discerning public.

To help balance our budget a large stag was raffled; this we bought from Sue Montgomery, 295 Pittwater Road, North Ryde (Tel. 8882929). We recommend this young lady to those wishing to buy quality stags, elks or ferns at fair and reasonable prices.

Proceeds of this raffle will cover the cost of transporting 15 Cycads (*Lepidozamia peroffskyana*) from East Comboyne to Burrendong, where they will be stored in the nursery until Stage II of the shade area is planted.

TRACING A FERN

At a recent fern gathering at Vivian and Phyl Brown's residence, I was shown a very beautiful and unusual fern which I was unable to identify.

I requested a fertile frond which was immediately supplied along with a small growing specimen. Obviously I felt duty bound to see what could be done about tracing its identity; this exercise proved quite interesting so I decided to include the details in this article.

After exploring a number of fern works with little success, I decided to examine some early books; as Phyl had explained that this fern appeared to be widespread in Queensland.

As it resembled a *Cyclosorus*, I looked up the Family Group, Thelypteridaceae - not easy as this family covers 28 individual species. However, in Volume 6 of "Ferns British & Exotic", Edward Joseph Lowe on page 120, I found a beautiful colour woodcut of this very fern under the title *Aspidium unitum*, Schkuhr. (a Dutch botanist), with a full description on pages 121 and 122. Finding that it was introduced to Kew Botanical Gardens in 1793, under the title of *Nephrodium unitum*, Robert Brown. It may be of interest here to explain that R. Brown is Dr. Robert Brown 1773 - 1858 the most celebrated of all botanists, studied medicine at Edinburgh University and received his Doctorate; but from 1820, devoted himself to Botany. Later with the Flinders' Expedition covering the coast of Australia. (Possibly this accounts somewhat for the keenness of the present Brown family in their fern interests).

A further check with perhaps the greatest of all fern records - (those of John Smith 1759 - 1828 curator and recorder for Kew Botanical Gardens for 40 years, in his work "Ferns British & Foreign", Kew 1866.) Under *Nephrodium*, Schott. - we have *Nephrodium unitum*, Robert Brown. With a previous title of *Aspidium unitum*, Schk.

Proceeding with the search starting with this title, *Aspidium unitum*, I found in another very early Australian work - "Lithograms of The Ferns of Queensland" by Frederick Manson Bailey, 1892, a pressing of this same fern (identical type) under the same title on page 127. *Aspidium unitum*, Swartz. Also an additional species, *Aspidium unitum* Sw. Var *propinquum*. Also, in "Ferns & Fern Allies of Australia", Jones & Clemesha - 1st edition, a somewhat similar species with the title - *Cyclosorus interruptus* (Willd) Ching. Page 166 - with a previous title of *Cyclosorus gongylodes* (Schkuhr) Link is mentioned. However the illustration with this species differs from our specimen.

Reading further in R.E. Holttum's "Flora of Malaya" Volume 2 "Ferns of Malaya", we find two separate ferns -

Cyclosorus gongylodes (Schkuhr) Link. 1938, and
Cyclosorus interruptus (Willdenow) Ching, 1938.

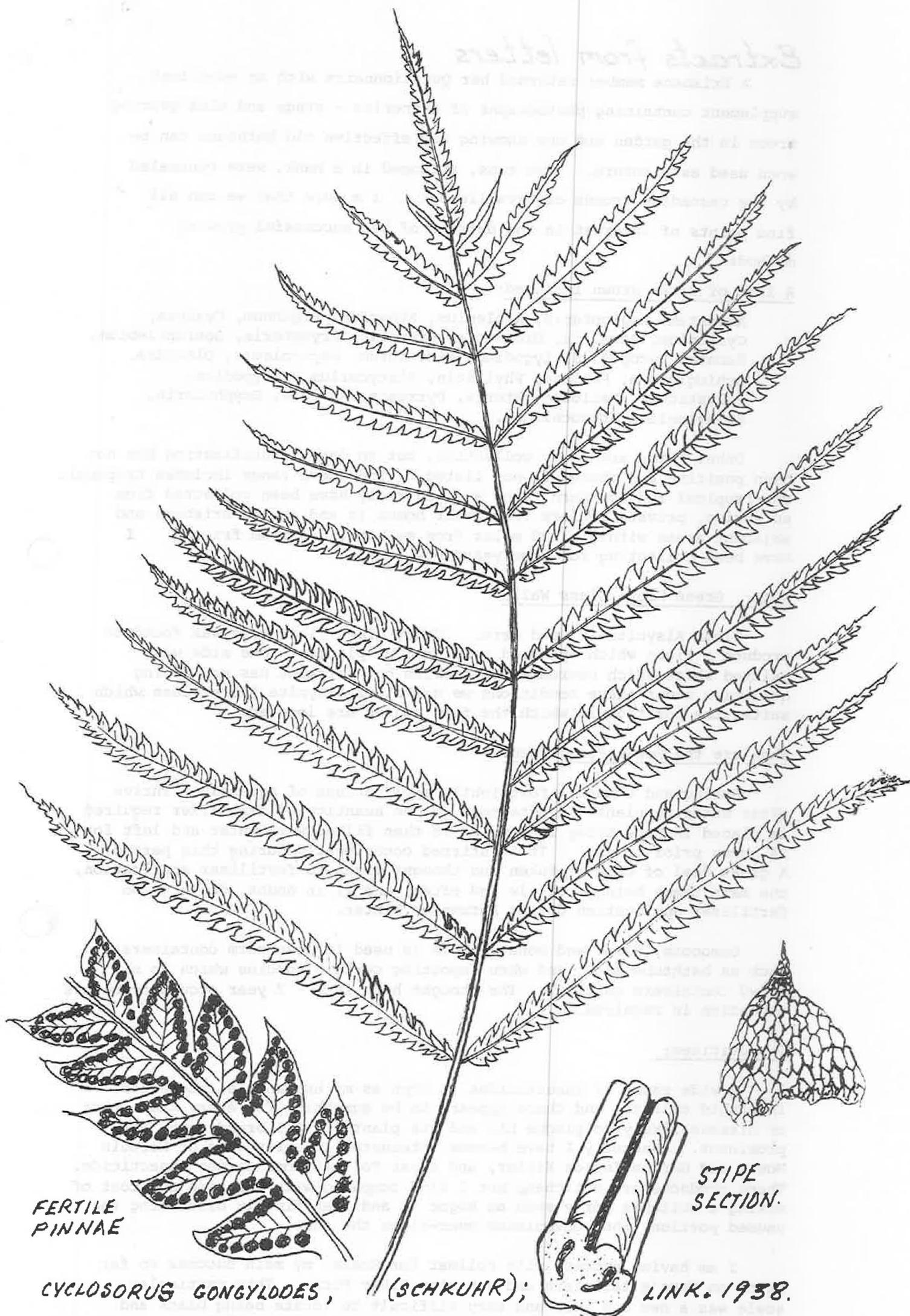
The drawings of the fertile pinnae on Page 263 Figures 148 & 149 show two different sporeing patterns; *Cyclosorus gongylodes* being our fern specimen. Here it may be wise to include the previous names involved so that we can relate to our earlier writing:-

- One - *Cyclosorus gongylodes* (Schkuhr) Link. 1938.
Basynym:- *Aspidium gongilodus*, Schkuhr. 1809.
Synonym:- *Nephrodium unitum*, Robert Brown. 1793.
Synonym:- *Aspidium unitum*, Schkuhr. 1809

- Two - *Cyclosorus interruptus* (Willdenow) Ching. 1938
Basynym:- *Pteris interrupta*, Willdenow. 1794.
Synonym:- *Dryopteris interrupta*, Ching. 1938.

We may perhaps now conclude that the "correct" title for this fern is *Cyclosorus gongylodes* (Schkuhr) Link. 1938?

If there have been any further or more recent changes of classification, I am sure they would be of great interest to both the Browns and myself.



FERTILE
PINNAE

STIPE
SECTION.

CYCLOSORUS GONGYLODES, (SCHKUHR); LINK. 1938.

BASINYM :- *ASPIDIUM GONGILODUS*, SCHKUHR. 1809.

SYNONYM :- *NEPHRODIUM UNITUM*, ROBERT BROWN 1793.

SYNONYM :- *ASPIDIUM UNITUM*, SCHKUHR 1809.

Extracts from letters

A Brisbane member returned her Questionnaire with an excellent supplement containing photographs of ferneries - stags and elks gracing trees in the garden and one showing how effective old bathtubs can be when used as planters. The tubs, arranged in a bank, were concealed by the cascading fronds of Davallia Sps. I'm sure that we can all find points of interest in the details of her successful growing methods.

A list of ferns grown included:-

Adiantum, Angiopteris, Asplenium, Athyrium, Blöchnum, Cyathea, Cyrtomium, Davallia, Dicksonia, Drynaria, Dryopteris, Goniophlebium, Humata, Lycopodium, Lygodium, Microsorium, Nephrolepis, Oleandra, Ophioglossum, Pelleae, Phyllitis, Platycerium, Polypodium, Polystichum, Psilotum, Pteris, Pyrrosia, Rumohra, Scyphularia, Selaginella, Stenochlaena.

Other ferns are in my collection, but to date identification has not been positive and therefore not listed. The above range includes tropical, sub-tropical and southern ferns and generally have been collected from nurseries, private sellers from their homes in and around Brisbane and adjacent areas within a 100 miles from my home, and from friends. I have been collecting for some years now.

Note: Green Fibre Glass Walls

Clear Alsynite is used here. Other green fibreglass was found to produce a light which appeared to discolour plants. One side was painted white which overcame the problem but as paint has no lasting qualities under these conditions we use clear Alsynite fibre glass which suites the position in which the fern houses are located.

When are the Ferns Fertilised?

Spring and Summer - Fortnightly applications of Aquasol or Thrive after watering plants in afternoon. The quantity of fertilizer required is placed in Rega Spray Tank which is then filled with water and left for 24 hours prior to use. It is stirred occasionally during this period. A great deal of care is taken and thought given to fertilizer application, the main theme being - little and often, and if in doubt, don't. No fertilizer application during Autumn or Winter.

Osmocote, Blood and Bone: This is used in long term containers such as bathtubs etc., and when repotting certain species which do not crowd containers quickly. The thought here is 1 - 2 year occupancy before attention is required.

Insecticides:

A wide range of insecticides is kept as my husband is interested in orchid culture, and there appears to be something for every known pest or disease likely to plague him and his plants. All brand names are prominent. Recently I have become interested in spray cans of Mortein House and Garden Insect Killer, and Bayer Folimat Home Garden Insecticide. These products are not cheap but I find compared with the time and cost of mixing a suitable spray such as Rogor 40 and then finally discarding the unused portion, the convenience over-rides the cost.

I am having success with Folimat for Scale, my main success so far being on Mare's tail fern and Johnston River Fern. This particular scale was a new one here and very difficult to locate being black and green on both ferns. Both ferns recovered and are now thriving. We are still carefully experimenting with Folimat.

The Mortein spray does the job the makers claim and is very good against ants when ant powder gets wet.

Types of Containers:

Plastic containers; Lightweight, strong, easy to clean for re-use, easy to remove plant for re-potting, and product range includes chains for hanging baskets. Product lends itself to easy opening by cutting if an over-grown pot with extending roots is encountered. Easy to add extra drain holes if required. Easy to store in quantity.

Wire baskets; Ideal for showing Davallia species and those with similar rhizome production. Problem with planting material drying out quickly. I now have Davallia with rhizomes climbing up and out of solid plastic pots. I am still using wire baskets because of the number on hand, but it is doubtful I'll purchase more.

Bath tubs and old laundry tubs may sound unusual, but they work. I have six bath tubs - purchased second hand from our local Salvation Army Disposals - set up under trees and shade cloth, and carrying a bank of Davallia fijiensis. Rhizomes are over the side and large fronds hide the baths.

The air holes in clay pots for Cattleya orchids make these ideal for an unusual hanging pot. Drill three holes to place wire hangers and hook. Line inside, fill, and use a plant which will find its way through the lined holes. This can become a very interesting container.

Wood. A jewel from the orchid world. Really super for Lycopodium species. Hang with plastic coated wire - Telecom product is ideal - line with palm fibre or old Elkhorn peat, fill with epiphyte mix and your tassel ferns will tassel. Galvanised products burn tassel ferns.

All types of liners have been tried except the recently introduced compound type. We have two big palms - Livistonia australis (Cabbage Tree Palm) - and the fibre from this palm is outstanding. It holds moisture - is tough and long lasting and as basket or pot mixtures become tired, the plant finds this material an extra source of food. I use nothing else now and even use it to line plastic pots and baskets. There is a deal of competition from our local colony of opossums for this fibre. Makes good nest material.

Potting Mixes:

Fall into three classes:-

1. For epiphytic ferns;
2. For soil type ferns;
3. For ferns which thrive in high organic leaf mould mix;

1. Epiphytic: Peanut shells, rice husks, charcoal, very dry fowl manure, old Elkhorn (Platynerium) peat, fibre from Cabbage Tree Palm, chip bark. That is basic. Combination will depend on the subject to be dealt with. These materials are put through the concrete mixing machine, or hand mixed, depending on quantity of material required.

2. Soil Type: A recent house extension provided soil when underneath was excavated for concrete. This soil is kept under trees and used as required after passing through a 6' x 3' sieve. I also run a compost bin, where household scraps, lawn clippings and other materials are digested and used in our potting mixes. It is difficult to be specific about this operation. A lot depends on the plant being dealt with and the fertiliser incorporated in the final mix.

3. High Organic Mix: By accident we found that Davallia and Polypodiums are addicted to peanut shells, and this is the basis of our mix. Bulk is supplied by chip bark, spent mushroom compost, dried fowl manure, charcoal, and shredded Elkhorn peat. We almost fill the concrete mixing machine with the peanut shells, mushroom compost and chip bark, then add half a two gallon bucket each of charcoal, fowl manure (MUST be dry) and Elkhorn peat. This is rotated until the mixture becomes even and free flowing. For the bath tubs we use direct. Usually, though, it is stored in plastic bags until wanted for potting. This mixture is fairly coarse, so for topping up pots, baskets, etc., we buy a Cymbidium

Letters continued

Orchid mix, which is friable and free running and has a lot of rice husks and peat moss.

Our Brisbane writer concludes - "My favourite fern text is Jones and Clemesha. I am a member of the Los Angeles International Fern Society, the British Pteridological Society, the American Fern Society and more recently, the newly formed Louisiana Fern Society. You might be interested to know that the State of Louisiana is known as the Pelican State, the new Society chose as their logo a Pelican supported by fronds of *Pteris vitatta*, commonly called The Cemetery Fern over there. Following the bulletin introducing the logo, I wrote telling them about the S.G.A.P. Fern Study Group and how we had purchased thirty *Pteris vitatta* for the Burrendong Arboretum.

My *Pteris vitatta* - just fancy! Came from one of Brisbane's oldest cemeteries, Toowong, which I visit on a care and maintenance programme for family graves therein. I found the plant growing from a crack in a wall in a nearby grave site. It was very difficult to re-establish but eventually accepted the move and thrived. I am now experiencing a similar problem with some young plants 6-8 inches high, with good root growth and self sown in nearby pots. I didn't even know that the original *Pteris vitatta* had produced spores! I repotted them and am having the same trouble as with the original plant!"

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N.B. *Pteris vitatta* grows from cracks in cement paths in a nearby Rydalmere Industrial Complex. After "saving" a few of these sporelings, I noticed that they appeared to hover between life and death for several weeks even though they were receiving tender loving care.

Not all of the thirty plants purchased for Burrendong made it to the Arboretum. After potting on, some fell by the wayside and others stood still for some months before beginning to grow again. I have come to consider *Pteris vitatta* as a fern which resents disturbance.

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Moving South - Elliott Ackland tells us of some tribulation with climate and much success with fern growing in Birdwood, South Australia:

"Our family has operated a small nursery for some 14 years. Lately I have been concentrating on Australian Native Ferns and growing ferns from spore, the latter with good and bad results. In 1982, a winter of disastrous frosts, I had approximately 100 varieties of fern at the small prothalli stage, a power failure during a particularly heavy frost, in which we experienced below freezing temperatures from 8 p.m. till 10 a.m. the next morning, wiped out 90% of these ferns. Plants growing in pots on the ground were still a solid block of frozen soil at 1p.m. As you may expect, after several similar nights, the results were quite devastating leaving most of our stock destroyed and many of my ferns, collected over the years, lost. Fortunately, a supply of spore previously taken from ferns in my collection, has since germinated.

I have constructed a new spore raising house which has both electric and L.P. gas heating. I maintain this glass-house at a minimum of 20°C during the day and 15°C during the night and I'm obtaining excellent results. I use a mixture of 3 parts European Peat to one part vermiculite, moistened with rainwater and mixed in a concrete mixer. The ph is tested and adjusted with Dolomite, depending on what ferns I am propagating. I place the mix in trays and store in a shed for several days. I then drench each tray with boiling water (up to three times the volume of the medium) seal in a plastic bag and stack all the trays together covered with hessian to allow to cool slowly. I conduct this process as quickly as possible.

When cool enough, spore is sown and the tray recovered with plastic, sealed and put into the glasshouse. Most of my spore is collected from our own plants or other private sources. The main problem I encounter is in sowing the spore too thickly. The result is having to prick out clumps of small prothalli and transfer them to a similar sterilised mixture. From one tray of prothalli, I have produced up to 10 trays with 250 clumps per tray. The trick during this process is to maintain high humidity. I fill a 500 ml misting bottle with boiled rainwater and constantly mist both prothalli and pricked out clumps, so that they do not dry out. Working

Letters continued

across the tray, I slide a sheet of glass over the newly planted clumps and as each tray is finished, I seal it in a plastic bag and place in a darkened position in the glass-house for several weeks before exposing to more light. Losses are minimal and results to date - excellent. When the first fronds appear I begin foliage feeding with weak aquasol or a similar fertiliser. Many of the ferns we grow reach a good saleable size in 125 mm pots within 12 months. However species such as *Todea* or *Asplenium* will take two years or more.

In closing may I make this comment. Personally I feel that it is difficult to be a member of an association which is both your hobby and livelihood. It raises the question of whether your interests are personal or economic and may lead to disention among fellow members. However, fern societies only represent a very small percentage of the people who have ferns growing in and around their home. If the use of Australian ferns for interior decoration and outside in shadehouses or landscapes is to be increased, then I feel that the effort put in by enthusiasts and the many excellent nurseries trading in spore grown native ferns, has to be a combined effort for out mutual benefit."

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Among our members we have many with a commercial interest in ferns, whether they are growers, landscaping consultants or authors - they have contributed good plants at wholesale prices - their time and expertise and interesting articles for the benefit of this study group and its projects.

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Irene Champion from Mackay Branch, S.G.A.P., has high praise for the organisation of the North Queensland Rainforest Conference;

Irene's daughter, Jeanette, recently collected *Platycterium veitchii* from private property on Scrubby Mountain near Mackay.

"We sent a specimen to the Queensland Herbarium and it has not been recorded in this area previously. As this is a lithophyte, we tied our pieces onto a piece of fibrolite. They are only being watered very occasionally and so far seem to be quite 'happy'.

"The conference excursions gave those interested plenty of different ferns to observe. I had the pleasure of meeting a fellow fern study member, Geoffrey Long from Sydney, who also attended. Add to this a visit to Stroud's Barrier Reef Nursery on our way home, and you'll understand why our trip will long be remembered."

Perhaps my most memorable encounter was with the Giant or King Fern, *Angiopteris evecta*... Imagine the sound of gently falling water in a moist rainforest area where ferns and Club Moss abound ... Arching over a tranquil pool just below several small waterfalls in Wright Creek near Lake Eacham were the huge fronds of an *Angiopteris evecta*, and this specimen would not have been fully grown. This species is reputed to have the largest fronds of any fern in the world - up to 5 metres or more - and what is more remarkable these huge fronds contain no strengthening tissue but are supported entirely by fluid pressure. *Angiopteris evecta* and a related species, the Potato Fern, *Marattia salicina* which was also growing nearby, are very primitive ferns. These species can be confused but we were fortunate to observe fertile fronds on both, so the two distinct spore patterns left no doubts.

Other ferns enjoying this ideal habitat included *Blechnum patersonii* with its beautiful dark pink new growth; *Pteris* sp. (*pacifica*?); *Tectaria muelleri*; *Lastreopsis munita* and thick carpets of *Selaginella longipinna*.

On another excursion to high altitude rainforest near the Walsh River, we were shown magnificent specimens of four different species of Cyathea (Tree Ferns). These were all growing alongside a State Forest road. Dicksonia youngiae was growing on the creek bank making a fifth species of tree fern in a confined area. With the help of the following excursion notes, it was easy to identify the different species.

CYATHEA CELEBICA: Trunk covered in white to fawn silky scales. Stipe bases persistent, with sharp - woody spinex. Whitish beneath fronds of mature plants.

CYATHEA COOPERI: Trunk patterned by oval leaf scars. This is the common tree fern of the Atherton Tablelands.

CYATHEA REBECCAE: Trunk very slender. Dark green glossy fronds.

CYATHEA ROBERTSIANA: Trunk slender and smooth at top. Fronds pale green with an upside down appearance. A rapid coloniser of disturbed rainforest above 600 metres.

DICKSONIA YOUNGIAE: Upper trunk and stipes covered in coarse red bristles. Pale green fronds.

Blechnum sp (wattsii?) and a Coral Fern were also observed growing along the rather wet edge of this road.

Roadside banks seem to be favoured 'homes' for many different fern species, depending on conditions -eg moisture, soil type, light conditions and in some cases, altitude. In the "Fan Palm Mesophyll Vine Forest" at Pine Creek, (alt. 120m a.s.l.), we saw the Climbing Fern, Lygodium reticulatum, with its dark green leaflets. This was growing in fairly low light conditions while along the roadside at Bellender Ker Landing/Swamp (1m. a.s.l.), Lygodium microphyllum, with light green leaflets, was seen growing almost in full sunlight. Also in these rather harsh conditions were the Mangrove Fern, Acrostichum sp. (aureum?) and the Climbing Swamp Fern, Stenochlaena palustris. At first glance this species, with its wirey stems and scattered shiny pinnate fronds may not be recognised as a fern. No fertile fronds were seen and it took some searching before croziers were found. Further into the swamp and out of the bright light, was yet another climbing fern, Colysis ampla. This fern has unusual venation which is easily seen in the thin textured fronds.

The ferns mentioned thus far are generally terrestrial and are by no means ALL the species seen. No article on N.Q. ferns, however, would be complete without reference to some of the grand epiphyte and lithophyte species. Birds Nest Fern, Asplenium nidus; Elkhorn, Platycerium bifurcatum; Staghorn, P. superbum; and basket fern, Drynaria rigidula, are all well known to most people but seeing huge specimens of these growing high on trees in their natural habitat is indeed a privilege. At the other end of the size scale was the tiny Grammitis wurumuran with fronds less than 2cm. long which was pointed out to us where it was growing on mossy rocks in a high altitude "Montane epiphytic and lithophytic community. Other ferns growing on the rocks in this community included Asplenium nidus, A. paleaceum, A. polyodon and Pellaea falcata.

Drynaria rigidula was seen as a lithophyte in some of the drier areas visited. In a small "deciduous vine thicket confined to a small steep sided basalt gully" at Archers Creek Ridge, D. rigidula; Adiantum sp (aethiopicum?) the only common maidenhair seen on any of the excursions; and the Dwarf Hares Foot, Humata repens, were all growing on or in between the rocks. By gently removing some of the humus in which the Humata repens was growing, we were able to see the long creeping rhizome covered with hairy scales so typical of the hares foot family, Davalliaceae.

Letters continued

Joyce Ward sends news of developments in Queensland.

"The enthusiasm among many in S.E. Queensland to get together and pool their knowledge of ferns, had for some time caused Helen Moriarty and I to consider organising a local group; the actual motivation came after a lecture by David Jones at the Queensland Region Meeting when I received a letter from Irene Cullen of Rochdale. Irene had contacted several interested folk in her area who, together with those we knew, met in July of this year. We hope to combine meetings with excursions and explore many exciting areas; we are hopeful that the Fern Study Group may benefit from these periodical reports. "

"We were fortunate to have Ross Scott of Kenilworth as guide for the newly formed group on our first planned excursion to the Conondale Ranges.

It was evident that Ross has an intimate knowledge of this complex of mountain ridges and ravines maintaining Eucalyptus and Rainforest.

The first fern discovered, protected by grass among Eucalypts, was unfamiliar to most of the party - *Botrychium australe*, which grows in close association with an invading fungus; nearby were *Drynaria rigidula*, *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Doodia aspera* and *D. caudata*. Rainforest in a higher altitude was rich in epiphytes, ferns and lichens. Steep banks of logging roads were host to numerous species, *Dicranopteris linearis* mingling amongst *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Sticherous flabellatus* and *Lycopodium cernuum*. In shadowed damp areas, protected by overhanging vegetation, *Lunathyrium japonicum*, *Dennstaedia davallioides*, *Hypolepis punctata* and *Alantodea australe* (*Diplazium australe*) grew luxuriantly.

Near a moist area of one of the many creeks traversed, the banks were rich in ferns, palms and rainforest vegetation. *Blechnum cartilagineum*, *nudum*, *patersonii* and *watsii* were common, as were *Cyathea leichhardtiana* and *cooperi*. *Microsorium scandens*, *Arthropteris beckleri* and *A. tenella* climbed trees to where other epiphytes - *Asplenium australasicum*, *Davallia pyxidata* - *Platyserium superbum* and *P. bifurcatum* were a familiar sight. In more open situations, *Culcita dubia* carpeted the hillsides with its lime green tones. "

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By now the S.E. Queensland members would have had a further outing to Cliff Ritchie's fern house during September. While in October it is proposed to have an excursion to Lamington National Park. Anyone not yet contacted in the Fern Study Group of this region please contact either Joyce Ward - Mt. Glorious 289.0147 or Irene Cullen, Rochdale 341.4272.

The Conondale Ranges contain the last significant stands of unprotected rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest in Southern Queensland. These untouched forests are in the Booloumba Creek catchment, the central feature area of the Conondales. The Booloumba catchment is the home of many rare and endangered species, viz; the unique Platypus Frog, the Red Goshawk, the Black-Breasted Button Quail and many others. Queensland Forestry Department logging is gradually destroying the pristine condition of the area. The Conondale Range Committee is campaigning to have the Booloumba catchment reserved as a National Park.

Courtesy of Conondale Range Committee

Lindee Fitzpatrick (formerly Anderson)
has produced a summary of your replies to the
fern questionnaire.

Postal weight permitting it may be included
in this issue.

The data collected will provide articles for
future newsletters.

Our thanks to Lindee for undertaking the
additional work.

Please select a topic from those suggested
and make a contribution to your newsletter.

PROGRAMME:

OCTOBER - SUNDAY 23RD - 10AM

Meet at the Pyramid Glass House, Royal Botanic Gardens.
We will be taken on a tour of the reserve glasshouses. If the weather
is pleasant, bring your lunch and enjoy the Gardens.

NOVEMBER - SATURDAY 26TH - 2PM - ONWARDS

At Phyll and Viv Browns - A Xmas Party - bring a plate for afternoon
tea or cold buffet dinner. (address see letterhead).

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*Closing this newsletter is like saying goodbye after visiting a
friend - the closer one draws to the "gate", the more there is to say.
So many items accumulate that equally interesting items have to wait till
the next letter. This will be my last newsletter as leader of the Fern
Study Group; Bill and I are soon to leave on an extended holiday before
settling elsewhere. After almost four years, I feel that "I am just
getting the knack of it". Surely that indicates that a fresh approach is
needed! The new leader (see letterhead) will be Phyll Brown who is well
qualified by a long involvement in identifying, collecting and growing ferns
and more recently, by experiment and success with spore propagation.
Phyll will continue to administer the spore bank and is committed to the
project at Burrendong. I know that phyll, as I have, will enjoy the
friendly companionship and assistance of the Sydney group and the pleasure
of your correspondence.*

Yours sincerely,

Molly Murray
(Retiring Leader)