

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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Dan Johnston, contact as above.

Program for Sydney Region

Peter Hind

Saturday 17 Sept 2022 Meet at 11 am at the home of Dot Camp, 118 Manns Road, Narara. From Sydney, travel on the F3, take the Gosford exit & pass through Kariong, continue to the bottom of the hill to West Gosford. Turn **left** at the first set of traffic lights into **Manns Road**. Follow Manns Road & at the 4th set of traffic lights (about 3k) turn **right** into **Maliwa Road** & **right** again between No. 5 & 7 Maliwa Road into an unnamed private road. We plan to do a bushwalk in nearby Strickland National Park. The Plant lovers fair is also on at Kariong. Bring lunch, water etc and wear comfortable walking shoes. Dot will be our guide. **To register your attendance or if lost, phone Dot on 4324 6077 or mobile 0415 512 511**

Saturday 15 October 2022 Meet at Margaret and Peter Olde's country residence at 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale at 11 am. Ring Margaret on 4659 6598 if lost on the way there.

Travel instructions to the Oldes' at Oakdale. Access via M5. Take Picton turn-off, drive approx. 10 km to Picton. Turn left at Picton into Argyle St, then first right into Barkers Lodge Road. Drive on Barkers Lodge Road to Oakdale sign (17 km approx.). Russell Lane is on the right at the Oakdale sign. We are on the right just past a very large dam and market garden – 140 – “Silky Oaks”.

Saturday 20 Nov 2022 Meet about 10.30 am at the home of Ian Cox, 5 Ivy Place, Kenthurst. Enjoy the opportunity to explore this excellent fern garden and extensive plantings of other attractive natives that do so well on this sandstone bush block. End of year party. **No study**, please bring a plate or dish to share. Please let Ian know what you intend bringing to try and avoid too much of the same.

Enquiries to Ian (9654 2533); also let Ian know if you intend being there or send apologies for those not able to make it.

December 2022 and January 2023 – No Meetings – MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Saturday 18 February 2023 Meet from about 10.30 am for 11 am. Start at the home of Peter and Margaret Hind, 41 Miller Street, Mt Druitt. Study to be decided plus some more forward planning?
Phone (02) 9625 8705

Please bring a plate to share for morning or afternoon tea.

Saturday 18 March 2023 Meet from about 10.00 am at Pierces Pass (if late just follow the walking track downhill to the “Fairy Grotto” from the car park area). Travelling from Sydney along the Bells Line of Road (Richmond to Lithgow), turn left at the sign to Pierces Pass (West of Mt Tomah) and drive to the car park and picnic area furthest from the Highway (or leave your car at the top & walk down, it's a fair way and relatively steep). The walk involves a short but steep descent to the creek, where *Leptopteris fraseri* is abundant and forming free standing trunks. Bring lunch and water if required (eat back at cars or snack enroute). There is a water tank near the cars, fed by weeping rocks from above. Toilets are also provided here by National Parks. Our last FSG trip here was August 2013. About 25 fern species were seen here on our last visit.

Phone Peter Hind on 9625 8705 to register for the walk. Or email petehin@bigpond.com

Saturday 15 April 2023 Meet from about 10.30 am for 11 am start at the Lamonts' residence 158 Deepwater Road, Castle Cove. Take Castle Cove Drive (to the East) off Eastern Valley Way – it's 3 minutes off Eastern Valley Way. Study to be advised or perhaps decide on the day. To register your attendance, or if lost and need further directions or info, phone Steve on 0409 955 224.

Expressions of interest, several days before any of the bushwalks should be given to whoever is leading the walk, by phone, email etc. If no positive indications are received, at least two days, where possible, before the event by the walk leader, the event will be cancelled.

Of course, if the weather is bad or there is any possibility of danger, such as bushfire, please do not turn up. If personal events change your plans, please let the leader know or send apologies via someone who is planning to go, so that we don't wait for you.

All outings are subject to weather conditions being favourable.

Program for South-east Queensland Region

Helen Jeremy

Sun 9 October - Purlingbrook Falls, Springbrook NP. Meet at 9.30 am at the Purlingbrook Falls car park at the end of Forestry Road (Gwongorella picnic area). In pursuit of more species, we'll go further than we did when we last visited here in March 2020 and walk the 4km circuit which descends into the gorge. Followed by BYO lunch in the picnic area.

Fri 4 - Mon 7 Nov - Port Macquarie 4 day excursion

Sun 4 December - Christmas gathering. Meet at Bev and Bill's home in Chandler, from 9.30 am, for our end of year gathering and traditional "round-robin" raffle fern swap. BYO morning tea and lunch, as well as a fern(s) to swap if you can.

Please RSVP for all SEQ meetings to Helen Jeremy at heljeremy@gmail.com

Sydney Group Meeting Reports

Steve Lamont

Sydney FSG Trek to Green Scrub Rainforest – 16 July 2022

While it was lovely to meet John and Kay Mead; and it was lovely to see the *Sticherus* and the creek and the ponds in their backyard (that joins the trails); and it was lovely to drink tea with them and eat cake and biscuits, the old fire trails are now overgrown and, when the going got tough, the tough fell over a few times, got lost, got separated and went back for more cake and tea.

We didn't get to the rainforest but had a nice day fighting through *Calochlaena* and lawyer vines and looking for George.



George (somewhere)



George, John and Chris (left to right)



Sticherus by the creek



What Green Patch looks like (if you get there)

Sydney FSG August Expedition – Mount Wilson – 20 August 2022

This place is a regular favourite. It's not far from Sydney; it's not very taxing; and it's very lush and very beautiful. There isn't much of the summit that isn't covered in ferns or moss, or both. The atmosphere and the wall-to-wall greenness of the place are very therapeutic – so many amazing little details compete for urgent attention while day-to-day problems seem completely irrelevant.

This time, we had a relatively small group who had all been there before. So we decided to explore a little outside the envelope. We wandered along the creek toward where Kevin Mills had found *Lindsaea trichomanoides* last time that a few of us were there. We didn't get that far and we didn't find anything we hadn't seen there before (with the possible exception of *Rumohra adiantiformis*). We did see lots of *Blechnum nudum*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, *Sticherus lobatus*, *Zealandia pustulata* (*Microsorium pustulatum*), *Dendroconche* (*Microsorium*) *scandens*, *Asplenium flaccidum*, *A. gracillimum* (with a few bulbils), *Tmesipteris obliqua*, *Pyrrosia rupestris* and lots of varied mosses that we (mostly) couldn't identify.

Then we returned to reality and traffic and day-to-day problems.

On the way home, we did spot one rarity. We stopped at MacDonalds at Richmond in time to see the Governor-General stopping for a burger (or a wee).

South-East Queensland Meeting Reports

Brendan McIntyre

In the Caldera – The Wynne Property. 7th September 2022

It was a fine winter's morning when the fernies gathered in the shadow of the caldera. The scene was set - the towering red cedar kindly dropped its leaves, all manner of fern frond was opportunistically capturing the light, and everything was covered in a thick film of fern spores. Our hospitable host, Frances Middleton, tried to ease me and the others in with a comforting cuppa along with some lemon-scented myrtle scones. But personally, all I could think about was the fern feast awaiting us.

On stepping out of Fran's front door, the group identified no less than nine individual species in quick time - it was a good day to be a ferny. For the next four hours we zigzagged our way through the five acre property, never stuck for fern inspired musings. The Johnstons



discovered a healthy colony of *Asplenium harmanii*, which hadn't previously been recorded, at the top of a bank of some pesky *Lomandra longifolia*. Next big ticket item was a collection of cultivated *Angiopteris evecta*, stretching out their over-dimensional fronds below the water tank overflow, whilst busily procreating. Next to the *Angiopteris*, was my personal favourite, *Diplazium dilatatum*, with crisp feather like pinnae attached to black-green metallic stipes - a clear 'best in show' winner. Growing in its shadow, was its cousin, *Diplazium australe*, also quite ornamental, but with more pronounced pinnules - their blade segments like smooth undulating feathers, apices upturned ready to take flight. Of note also were the *Platynerium superbium*s, which hugged the stems of *Acacia melanoxylon*, sending their offspring down the trunks to monopolise all available real estate.

Eking out a living between the voluptuous 'superbiums' were the dainty and less conspicuous *Pyrrosias*. None were fertile at the time of our botanising, making it difficult to make a diagnostic identification, but we knew they were there. Back down below, *Arachnoides aristata*, with its perfect glossy fronds, reflected light in the understory, apices abruptly acuminate. Next came the muscle, *Sphaeropteris australis*, fronting up along the paths like bouncers standing outside a red-light district bar - adorned with shiny red hair (scales) and *Cymbidium suave* orchids to soften their edges. A *Davallia pyxidata* was inexplicably dumped at the foot of a *Sphaeropteris*, as if to demonstrate what might happen to us, if we stepped out of line. IDs approved, we walked into new fern territory...

The earth underfoot changed from the red loams to quartzite rocks - ankle breaking country. Due to the harsh terrain, progress was slow at times and we were mindful not to find ourselves in a place where we potentially could have trouble retreating from. There was talk of *Arthropteris tenella* and a *Dendroconche* sp. living in the area, and the group became excited at the prospect of augmenting our list of ferns for the property. Little did we know at the time, but the *Arthropteris* and *Dendroconche* were but only the carrot which would lead us to more treasures.

On searching for the mythical ferns, the group literally stumbled across *Christella parasitica* growing next to its more ubiquitous cousin *Christella dentata*, making for a great lesson in compare and contrast. *Parapolystichum microsorum* was discovered creeping around in its own little clearing. In short succession Graham identified *Adiantum diaphanum* growing inconspicuously next to *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hispidulum*, allowing him to demonstrate the distinct hirsute nature of *A. diaphanum* up close. Not long after, the search party reached the more inaccessible, darker corner of the property, where we finally beat a track to the *Arthropteris tenella* and a *Dendroconche* sp. The group identified *Dendroconche scandens* and added it to the Wynne mix. For better or worse, our collective momentum took us down the hill, only to land at the property entrance. On making the ascent back up to the house along the driveway, the group discovered the Corinthian column inspired *Asplenium polyodon* in the fork of a large Camphor laurel, where it was complimented by a *Dictymania brownii* specimen lurking in its shadow. Our fern botanising was now complete.

If you are looking for an accessible wild collection of rainforest ferns in South East Queensland, then it's difficult to look past the Wynne property. The whole shebang seems like a finely curated exhibition of local ferns.



Frances Middleton with some of the Fernies.



Fernies in the thick of it.



The Johnstons have found something new.

Whereas, in actual fact, the Wynne stands as a testimony to how a successful ecological restoration project should look like on a south-facing block within the caldera. For that, the fernies were very grateful - nice work Fran!

Members present: Frances Middleton, Helen Jeremy, Beth McDonald, Graham McDonald, Dan Johnston, Wendy Johnston, Yve McIntyre, Brendan McIntyre.

(ed. The above is extracted from an excellent, extensive report by Brendan which is available: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OjfRlp1ROx9rA0BE1H0UQdzaI7MsZoDF/view?usp=sharing>)

Ophioglossum dark arts with the Johnstons. 28th September 2022

Apparently, the collective noun for ferns is firecracker. When I observe the fresh red fronds unfurl on my *Blechnum neohollandicum*, the term seems very apt. However, when you go to the Johnston's property at Buderim a more suitable collective noun comes to mind: an exhaustion of ferns.

No less than 45 individual species are in cultivation here. There was a lot of territory to cover on this day and the fernies didn't hesitate in setting a cracking pace. Before one species could be adequately catalogued and observed by the reporter, the group were already a couple of metres down the path, which is a relatively long distance for a ferny.

The Johnstons' front entrance was characterised by a microclimate amenable to high fern species richness. It was the adiantums that set the stage on exiting the front door. *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hispidulum* grew next to *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *whitei*, which grew in close proximity to *Adiantum diaphanum*, which grew less than a stone's throw away from *Adiantum atroviride*. The garden bed transitioned into a tangled mass of spore laden *Goniophlebium subauriculatum* and bookended by a neat *Asplenium harmanii*. Time to inhale.

As is the habit of all good fernies, Wendy had a tale to weave about every individual species, suffused with controversy, subterfuge and false claims in the fern world. It became very apparent to all present that it was good to have Wendy in the fray to sort out the grain from the chaff and to ensure that fern identification stayed on the straight and narrow. Onwards, and in this case, downwards, the fernies continued on their merry way through the property.

The Johnstons' place proved to be a good location to observe the various *Drynaria* species in cultivation, although the picture would have been more complete had the *D. rigidula* leaves been pockmarked by sori. We were just emerging out of winter, so we were lucky to see any fronds at all in this deciduous genus. There was something mesmerising about seeing the sterile fronds of the *D. sparsisora* clamp and slowly envelop the stem of a tree.

Walking back toward the front gate, we noted a dense cluster of *Rumohra adiantiformis* with its fronds starting to yellow, presumably as the end of winter was upon us. On observing the interesting black patterns present in the *Blechnum cartilagineum* fronds, Spencer Shaw got triggered and shared his story of woe and how he fought the leaf nematodes, but the leaf nematodes won.

At the gate, the near perfect plastic-like fronds of *Arachniodes aristata* were competing for real estate with *Parapolystichum decompositum* with its tell-tale brown bullate scales along the pinna rachis, and a large knot of *Davallia pyxidata*, indusium fully laden. Amidst the epic Darwinian war *Dictymia brownii* was growing in an old stump, struggling to find the light among the surrounding hordes.

As an amateur ferny, it's becoming clear to this reporter that there is an informal process in gaining street cred in the field - it is the ability to attract an *Ophioglossum pendulum* to your property. It's not a



Wendy showing off her impressive collection.

simple matter of laying out some bait or some strategic and patient transferring of spore. It all relies on the ribbon fern liking you, your platyceriums, and the conditions you are able to offer it. Where did the Johnstons ribbon fern come from? It raises so many questions - what dark arts are involved? Ostentatiously, the Johnstons also demonstrated how they managed to coax one into growing out of the bottom of a Daintree she oak (*Gymnostoma australianum*) container, which subsequently had to be elevated to accommodate the cascading fronds.

Now to return back to planet earth, an *Asplenium simplicifrons* was growing happily within the buttress root folds of a landmark blue quandong and from what we could tell, it was Dan's happy place as well. The *Polystichum proliferum* was doing what all good mother shield ferns do: showing off its proliferous buds. Walking further into the buttress maze, Dan lifted some cunjevoi leaves to reveal his private stash of *Pellaea paradoxa*. *Pellaea falcata* was located within a different part of the same maze, its dark leathery textured pinna, a common feature of the genus.



Dan trying to keep his head above the fern cover.

Downwards and further into the garden, the troupe advanced. The *Asplenium pellucidum* specimen was something to note. As with the other aspleniums, the leaves have a beautiful thick luxurious texture which sets them apart from other ferns. We then delved into some good sori action when observing the *Arachniodes aristata* and *Parapolystichum rufescens*. We deliberated for some time on the *Parapolystichum rufescens* as it was ornamental on lots of different levels. The new emerging fronds were a striking metallic black and the sori were eye-catching pink puff balls. A diagnostic feature in this species is the asymmetrical lowermost pinnae (wider section towards base of frond) as expertly identified by Helen Jeremy, our fearless leader.

The *Pteris ensiformis* punctuated the property in locations with diverse aspects, sometimes in dark areas and sometimes popping up in more exposed ones such as in the middle of the lawn. As such, the Johnstons regarded it as a bit weedy. In contrast to the ubiquity of the *Pteris*, Wendy showed us her contribution to ex situ conservation through the cultivation of the rare North Stradbroke *Thelypteris confluens*. The Johnstons further demonstrated their prowess through the successful growing of *Sticherus flabellatus*, which is notoriously difficult to cultivate.

As an epilogue to the tour, Dan led a small number of us to the bottom of the property where he had a number of *Angiopteris evecta* growing next to the creek. They looked very healthy and serve as testimony to the Johnstons and their great efforts in caring for such a valuable and diverse collection of ferns. The fern community is grateful to have them.

Members present: Wendy and Dan Johnston, Helen Jeremy, Julie Major, Spencer Shaw, Yve and Brendan McIntyre.

(ed. Again, the above is extracted from Brendan's corresponding extensive report

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tZNklc9Vsf29A5yuyTtYM2JJ7mjfZJVk/view?usp=sharing>)

Other Articles

Drynaria rigidula 'Diversipinnae'

Rod Pattison

C.T. White discovered this fern in the Glasshouse Mountains in May 1910 (see Appendix A), most likely on Mt Crookneck where a large stand is still growing on the eastern side of the mountain.

During my many years of walking and searching for ferns in the bush, I found this fern in a number of locations including Mt. Tamborine, Fernvale, Mt Nebo, Mt Glorious, Lacey's Creek, Mapleton, Kulangoor, Yandina and Gympie.

Interestingly, no two plants ever turned out to be exactly the same. One could best describe them all as being incomplete forms of a bipinnatifid foliage. A number of these forms are featured in my book "Some New Ferns of Australia: a Pictorial Study".

I have no doubt that more forms will be found in the future.

APPENDIX "A"

Order FILICES.

POLYPODIUM, Linn.

P. rigidulum, Sw., var. *diversipinnæ*, Bail.; n. var. (Plate 16).
This variety differs from all others in the great diversity in the form of its pinnae upon the same frond, as will be seen in the accompanying illustration, showing various pinnae, all taken from a single frond; the plant attains a height of over 4 ft.; is of a pleasing green, and, like other varieties of the same species, takes kindly to cultivation, and doubtless will soon be common in our hushouses.

Hab.: Glass House Mountains, C. T. White (Field Naturalists' Club Excursion, May, 1910).

JAN., 1912.]

QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

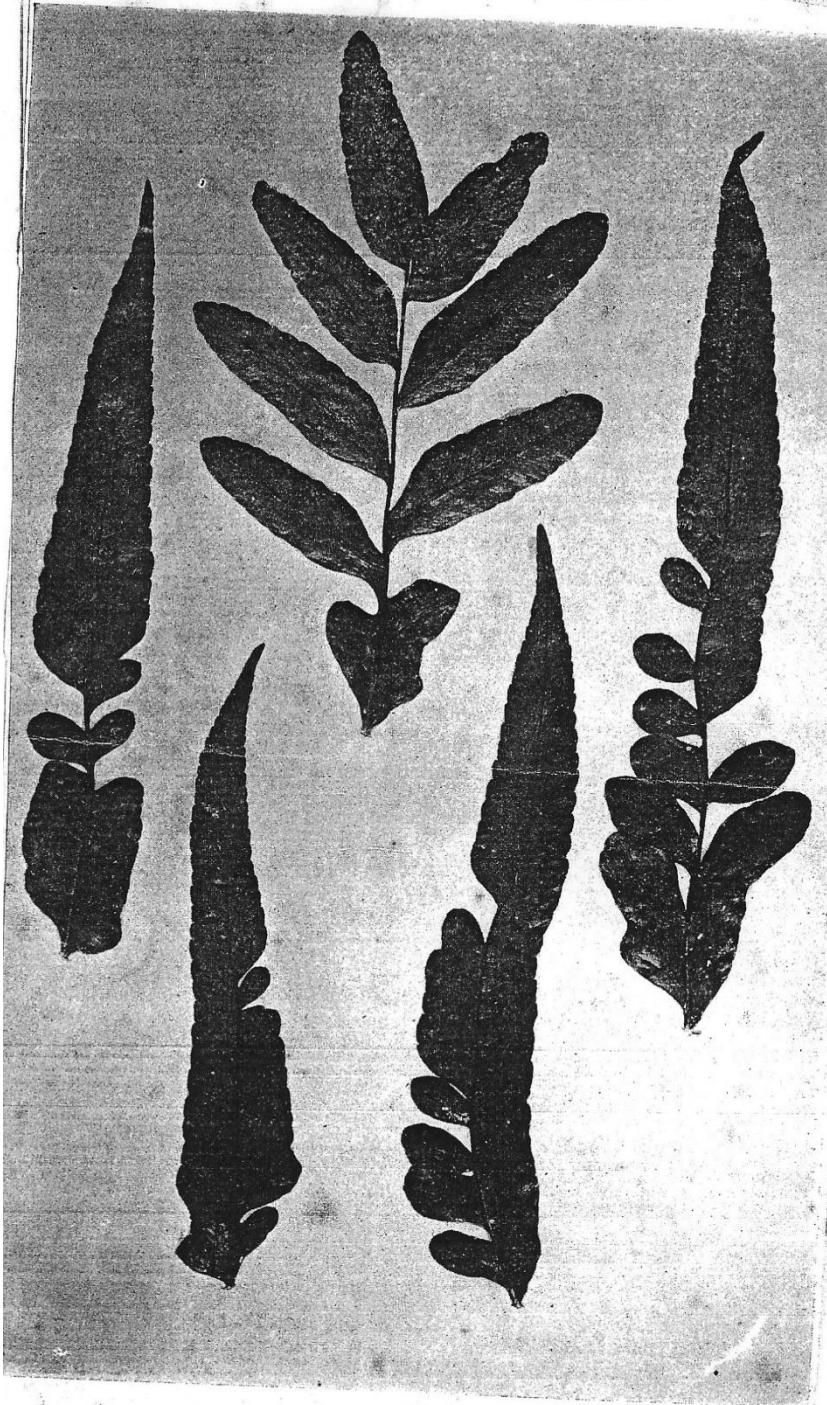


PLATE 16.—POLYPODIUM RIGIDULUM, Sw., VAR. DIVERSIPINNÆ, Bail.
Five pinnae from one frond.

ANPSA Fern Study Group Financial Statement 1st July, 2021 to 30th June, 2022

Dan Johnston, treasurer

Initial balance	12,192.80
Plus Membership fees	470.00
Term deposit interest	9.00
Donations	90.00
Subtotal	12,761.90
Less Newsletter costs	243.94
Final Balance	12,517.96

\$12,000 is held as a term deposit; and \$517.96 is in the Society Cheque Account. Both bank accounts are with the Commonwealth Bank.

ANPSA Fern Study Group Fees for 2022–2023

Dan Johnston, treasurer

The annual subscription to the Fern Study Group is \$5 for per household receiving a single copy of the Fern Group Newsletter and was due on 1st July. Please note also that membership of an ANPSA affiliated body, such as Native Plants Queensland, is a necessary prerequisite for study group membership.

Our leader, Steve Lamont, has decided that fees will not be required after June, 2025.

Newsletters are sent by email (colour images, Adobe Acrobat pdf file) or by post (B&W images).

If you get your newsletter by email, the current paid-to date will be in the body of the email.

If you get your newsletter by post, the envelope address and an enclosed note will show your current **paid-to** date:

June 2019 Payment of \$15 is overdue; a total of \$20 is due to take you to June, 2023

June 2020 Payment of \$10 is overdue and a total of \$15 is due to take you to June, 2023.

June 2021 Payment of \$5 is overdue and a total of \$10 is due to take you to June, 2023.

June 2022 Payment of \$5 is due to take you to June, 2023

June 2023 or later. You have already paid for the coming year.

We accept payments for up to June, 2025, after which fees will no longer be payable. An additional \$10 beyond what is specified above will cover your subscription until fees end in June, 2025.

Methods of payment:

- In person at a Queensland group meeting.
- By cheque or money order posted to me:
Dan Johnston,
9 Ryhope St,
Buderim, Qld. 4556.

For new members, please provide contact details e.g. name, address, and optionally an email address and phone number(s) (see form below). For new members, newsletters will be provided by email only. Make cheques payable to 'Fern Study Group'.

- By electronic bank transfer or direct deposit. You can transfer or deposit into our account.

Account name: **Fern Study Group**

Account number (Commonwealth Bank):

BSB: 064178

Account: 10230709

Please give your name as the "To account description" (other banks may have different terminology). If you use the electronic bank transfer or direct deposit method, I suggest that you also send me an email at: **ANPSAferns@bigpond.com** so that if I have any queries about the payment, I can contact you by return email.