



AUSTRALIA'S FUNGI MAPPING SCHEME

fungimapnewsletter 30

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NEWS FROM THE FUNGIMAP CO-ORDINATOR

Hello to all Fungimap members from your new co-ordinator. I have now been in the position for six months, working two days a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays). A little bit about myself – I have a background as a ranger and environmental educator, and have been fortunate enough to work in such stunning places as Phillip Island in Victoria and Moreton Island in Queensland. In a previous life I worked as a computer support officer, gaining skills that now serve me well in the Fungimap office!

There have been a few changes in the committee within the past few months. Teresa Lebel has regrettably resigned from the position of Secretary, following her appointment as President of the Australasian Mycological Society. Teresa will continue to be involved in Fungimap matters as part of the conference planning and editorial

committees. Our warmest congratulations to Teresa on this appointment.

I am pleased to announce that our new Fungimap Secretary is Paul George. Many of our Victorian Fungimap members will be familiar with Paul's expertise and involvement in field mycology across the greater Melbourne region.

Fungimap ran a bookstall at the recent International Mycological Congress in Cairns. We were successful in not only selling a large number of books (including our own title *Fungi Down Under*), but also in raising the profile of Fungimap in the international mycological community. Our thanks go to Graham Patterson for his invaluable assistance in setting up and manning the bookstall.

Planning for the Fungimap IV Conference in Queensland is now underway, due in no small part to the dedication of several of our members – particularly Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, Katie Syme, Nigel Fechner, Ray & Noreen Baxter and Teresa Lebel. Registration forms have been provided in this newsletter. I am looking forward to meeting many of you there next May.

Website:

For those members who have access to the internet, you might like to take a look at our updated website – fungimap.rbg.vic.gov.au. We have added a number of new features:

- Addition of the five new Fungimap target species
- New titles in our bookshop
- The Fungimap record sheet is now available online
- A new page detailing Upcoming Events related to fungi across Australia
- Contact details for regional fungi groups are now listed
- Links to other fungi-related websites

(continued on page 3)

CONTACTING FUNGIMAP

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Website: <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap/>

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FUNGI INTEREST GROUPS

NSW

Sydney Fungal Studies Group

Fungi forays, talks and workshops in the Sydney area.
Secretary: Donald Gover, Ph: (02) 9661 4898
Email: dgover@bigpond.net.au
Web: www.sydneyfungalstudies.org.au

Central Coast Fungi Group

Fungi forays in the Central Coast region of NSW.
Contact: Pam O'Sullivan, Ph: (02) 4362 1543
Email: pamos@cregion.com.au

Qld

Queensland Mycological Society

Brisbane

Contacts: Karalyn Herse, Ph: 0419 716 851
Email: fungiqld@yahoo.com.au
Sapphire McMullan-Fisher: sapphire@flyangler.com.au

SA

Adelaide Fungal Studies Group

Monthly meetings and forays during the fungi season.
Contact: Pam Catcheside, Ph: (08) 8222 9379
Email: Catcheside.Pam@saugov.sa.gov.au

Tas

Fungi Lovers Adventure Group (FLAG)

Fungi activities in northern Tasmania.
Contact: Sarah Lloyd, Ph: (03) 6396 1380
Email: sarahlloyd@iprimus.com.au

Vic

Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, Fungi Group

Forays, monthly meetings & presentations.
Contact: Geoff Lay, Ph: (03) 9898 4816
or Arthur Carew (03) 5968 4505
Web: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~fncv> then Calender of Events

WA

Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project

Fungi workshops, walks, surveys in Perth Urban bush areas.

Contact: Roz Hart, Sarah de Bueger.

Email: pubf@iinet.net.au

Web: <http://www.fungiperth.org.au>

WA Naturalists' Club, Fungi Study Group

Fungal forays, workshops, identification evenings and talks, based in Perth.

Contact: WA Naturalists' Club

Email: wanats@iinet.net.au

Web: <http://www.wanats.iinet.net.au/fungigroup.html>

William Bay National Parks

Association, Fungi Studies Group

Fungi forays around Denmark.

Contacts: Katrina Syme email: syme@westnet.com.au

Dale Fewings: mtromance@wn.com.au

(continued from page 1)

GST:

I would like to advise everyone that Fungimap Inc. will be registered for GST as of *January 1st 2007*. This will allow us to take greater control over our finances and achieve greater independence in our operations. Unfortunately this will also mean that membership and bookshop prices will increase slightly as a result, as we need to add the GST component to cover our costs. The new membership prices will be \$33 for ordinary members, and \$27.50 for concessional members. This also means that all cheques are to be made out to Fungimap.

Bookshop:

We have sourced a number of new titles for our bookshop. Included in this issue is our updated 2007 order form. Please note, however, that GST has been included in these prices. Full descriptions and images of each book title are on our website.

Lastly, I would like to extend my best wishes to you all for the festive season. I hope you and your families have a safe and joyful holiday.

Sarah Jacob

Fungimap Co-ordinator

FROM THE EDITOR

In spite of the drought, I think that 2006 has been a fascinating and exciting 'fungal' year. Rare and interesting species continue to be reported from around the country and we read of some of these in the News from the Regions. I am grateful to all those who contribute to the Newsletter – their articles and reports underline an increasing interest and enthusiasm for fungi in the general community. More books are now available from the bookshop to help fuel this interest. It's also great to have your letters and, if you can help answer any queries, please do so either direct to the letter-writer or to me. I will pass on your reply.

Please continue to send us material related to fungi, including images, questions, puzzles, comments, reviews, quirky bits of news. Articles should be no more than 800 words, news items no more than 600 words; images should preferably be jpg, resolution at least 300dpi and submitted in at least the size that they are to be published. Avoid images larger than 1Mb (which are preferably to be posted on CD-ROM). Please send your contributions to Pam (Catcheside.Pam@saugov.sa.gov.au) or Fungimap, RBG Melbourne, Private Bag 2000, South Yarra, Victoria 3141 (fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au). The deadline for the next issue, Fungimap Newsletter 31, is Friday, 2nd March, 2007.

Finally, I wish you all a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year and my best wishes for a wetter and very productive 2007. I look forward to seeing you at Fungimap IV.

Pam Catcheside



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – Fungi Curation

The National Herbarium of Victoria is seeking volunteers to assist with the curation of our fungi collection.

Volunteers must be able to commit to working approx. half a day per week, on an ongoing basis.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Judy Ryan (Volunteer Coordinator), on (03) 9252 2380.

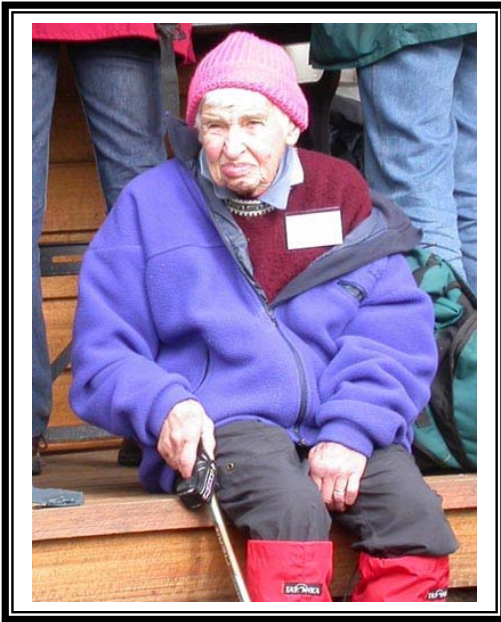
New titles in our bookshop

- *Myxomycetes of New Zealand* by Steven Stephenson
- *Fungi* by Roy Watling
- *Fungi of Australia: Hygrophoraceae* by Tony Young
- *Fungi of Australia: Volume 2A*
- *Fungi of Australia: Volume 2B*
- *The Magical World of Fungi* by Patricia Negus
- *Field Naturalists Club of Victoria 2005 Fungi CD*
- *Handlenses* now available

Please visit our website or contact the Fungimap Co-ordinator for more details on these titles. See insert for more details.

OBITUARY

GRETNA WESTE 1917-2006



The mycological community was saddened by the recent death of Gretna Weste. Gretna will be remembered by Fungimappers at the 2005 Fungimap III conference in Tasmania as an indomitable spirit, joining in all activities with her characteristic energy and enthusiasm, supporting and encouraging professionals, students, and novices alike in their pursuit of fungi.

Gretna obtained her BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD and DSc all from the University of Melbourne and was Co-ordinator and, later, Reader in Botany at that University from 1961-1982. She pioneered research into the introduced fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, proving that it was the causal organism of the 'dieback' that started in the 1970s to devastate Australian sclerophyll forests and their understoreys. She explained how it is spread, its biological behaviour and control, and continued this work well into the present century.

Although Gretna's research and publications covered fungal diseases: 'take-all' of cereals, as well as her major work on *P. cinnamomi*, she also worked with an amateur mycologist, Gordon Beaton, with whom she published many descriptions of fungi, mostly Australian discomycetes. She contributed to *The Victorian Naturalist* and provided many records to Fungimap.

Gretna was a keen bushwalker, leading monthly walks for the bushwalking group of the Melbourne University Staff Association for 22 years, passing on her knowledge of native plants and fungi to innumerable field naturalists.

She was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) in 1989, the Australasian Plant Pathology Society Medal in 1995 and was the inaugural patroness of the Australasian Mycological Society.

Gretna's friendship, professionalism, expertise, concern for and interest in others, her sense of humour, practicality and generosity will be much missed.

Pam Catcheside

AN INTRODUCTION TO FUNGI ON WOOD IN QUEENSLAND

By Ian Hood

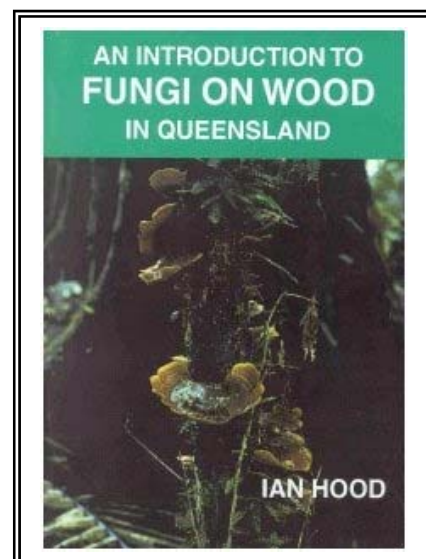
This book is an introduction to the common fungi that are found on wood in Queensland. Its purpose is to assist in identification of this fascinating group of organisms. Over 180 species are illustrated, with descriptions and notes on their habitat and distribution. The book will be of interest to university and school students and teachers, environmental staff, lay enthusiasts and anyone else with an interest in this important component of the environment.

Price: \$53.00 plus P&H

Available directly from **United Campus Bookshops**

Ph: 02 6772-3468

www.ucb.net.au



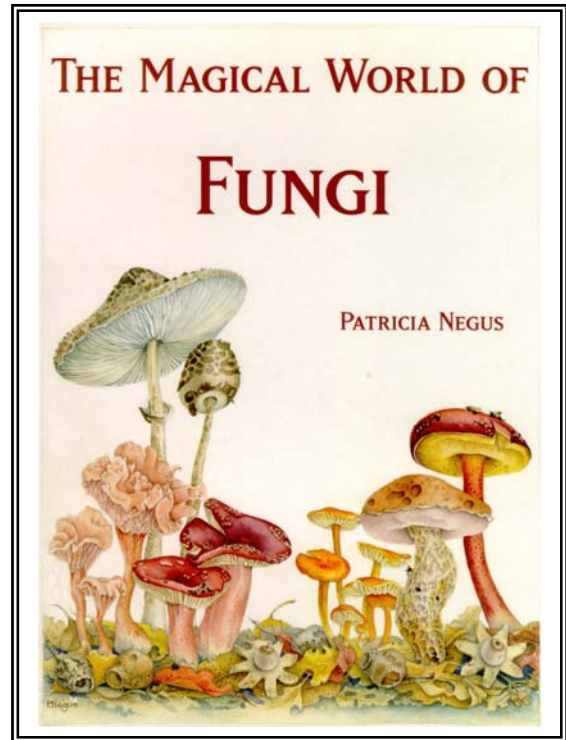
THE MAGICAL WORLD OF FUNGI

Just arrived in the Fungimap bookshop is this delightful new title from illustrator Patricia Negus. With stunning illustrations on each page, the book details a large number of species found in Patricia's local area in south-west Western Australia – many Fungimap targets are included. The text also includes entertaining stories of Patricia's journey into the world of fungi.

At \$30 including postage, this book would make a fantastic Christmas gift for the nature enthusiast.

Read an excerpt from the book:

“When looking out for fungi one sometimes comes across the unexpected. A well-known West Australian pointed me in the direction of a strange red bell-like fungus he had found. There were two of these, partially buried in the earth and they looked very interesting. On closer inspection however, and much to his embarrassment, we discovered them to be – two spongy earplugs! I was subsequently fooled again when I found two more in a nearby pine plantation! My journey to his property was rewarded however, by finding the Stalked Puffball *Tulostoma* sp., the only one of its kind I have found – so far.”



BOOK REVIEW

by Pat Grey

The Magical World of Fungi

by Patricia Negus

with notes by Jane Scott

Fungi of the Southwest of Australia

Publisher: Cape to Cape Publishing, Western Australia

Pages: 56 with over 386 paintings

ISBN 9780957772991.

RRP

The author's delightful paintings are the feature of this book of Australian fungi. The numerous images show the vast range of shapes, colours and sizes of fungi. In general the specimens have been found in Jarrah-Marri forests but also in gardens, roadsides, plantations and a few in Karri forests. Although these specimens were found in southwest Australia, many of the species are also found in southern and eastern Australia.

This paperback is an A4 size which makes it a valuable home reference. It contains numerous paintings of macro-fungi fruit bodies (and a few slime moulds). Most of the paintings are on the 14 plates (242) but selected species (about 144) are placed throughout the book.

Plates are on the right-hand-side of a double page with the key and species listed on the left. The key is a small image of the plate with numbers placed over the species. Below this is listed the numbers with species names, substrate, and the month when seen and painted. This leaves the actual plate free of clutter and the specimens are clearly seen. Slime moulds are illustrated on a separate plate accompanied by a short explanation. The images are approximately 80% of actual size so that the number of species shown on each plate varies from 10-29 depending on the size of the specimen. This consistent sizing of fruit-bodies gives an excellent visual impression of the actual size of the fungus which is very useful.

The plates illustrate the species in the order in which they were seen and painted, as Negus says 'I painted them as I found them, one by one on the various pages' (p. 7 Introduction – Why Kick a Fungus). In some cases the same species can be found on different plates showing a different stage of development. This is particularly useful since fruit-bodies can change dramatically throughout their life time (e.g. plate I 3 *Scleroderma cepa*, where plate J 12 shows an old fruit body). It is also good to have a wide range of fruit-body shapes shown in the one book. Apart from those recognisable shapes that have a cap and stem,

Book Review: The Magical World of Fungi (continued) there are spikes/clubs of coral fungi, jelly fungi masses, bird-nest fungi, and puffballs, to name but a few.

Illustrations are interspersed with explanations and anecdotes by Negus and Scott which make the book appealing and convey the excitement and magic of looking for and finding fungi. I laughed at the 'Bunbury' fungus, how many of us have found the 'gum' fungus or 'golf-ball' fungus? From my point of view it was also interesting to read that the 'weedy' Yellow Stainer *Agaricus xanthodermus*, so very common in Victoria, has yet to reach southwest Australia.

The text also answers a few of the commonly asked questions such as what defines mushrooms, toadstools and fungi (p. 31) as well as describing the different types of fungi (e.g. pp 18, 24, 36). Paintings on pages 30, 31 provide an example of the wonderful colours to be found, but are also good examples of common name differences as mentioned by Scott (p. 31). With so many endemic Australian fungi, it is important to start being consistent with common names. *Cortinarius archeri* (p. 31, here as Archer's Cortinar), in Victoria is called the Emperor Cortinar (following McCann) because of its magnificent purple colour appropriate for an emperor. This colour was restricted (officially) to use on the clothing worn by the Roman Emperor and the dye was obtained from a rare snail. Also instead of Splendid Dermocybe (p. 30), the name Splendid Red Skinhead is used in *Fungi Down Under*, where Skinhead is a direct translation of Dermocybe.

There are a few minor labelling errors, for example on pages 18, 19 the plate referred to should be Plate L not M. *Clavaria* sp. N 12 looks as though it should be a repeat of E 12 not E 9. Identification to species from images is difficult particularly as colours vary enormously, e.g. *Mycena vinacea* illustrated on plates N 17 and M 10, where M 10 looks more like a *Rhodocollybia* sp. in the

printed colour - shows no hint of purple and has a different shape. Substrate is one of the clues to identification and this could have been given in more detail for all specimens. Also, perhaps it might have been more appropriate to use edible fungi to illustrate the page with the recipes.

Dr Richard Robinson, mycologist, wrote the Foreword and identified species. However, Negus comments in 'A Last Word' - 'There are probably hundreds, if not thousands of undescribed fungi' and she was lucky enough to find a *Dermocybe* sp. and a *Leucocoprinus* sp. (C 1) that even Dr Robinson had not previously seen. This just emphasises the fact that there are many new discoveries still to be made amongst the fungi.

Negus' aim was to introduce fungi to a wider audience and in this she has been extremely successful. In 'A Last Word' the author outlines a useful way for newcomers to fungi to get started and become familiar with species, with ideas on creating some order amongst the vast range of fungi.

There can never be enough books with illustrations of Australian Fungi and *The Magical World of Fungi* will prove an excellent addition to any fungiphile library. This book will introduce people to the colourful and diverse world of fungi as well as providing an additional guide for the enthusiast.

YET ANOTHER EXCELLENT REVIEW FOR FUNGI DOWN UNDER:

From David Hawksworth, *Mycotaxon*, Vol.96,
April-June 2006, pp333-334.

"...this is a beautifully presented guide... a
model that merits emulation in other countries."

FUNGAL NEWS

News from Tasmania

Sarah Lloyd

Like much of the rest of the country Tasmania experienced an exceptionally dry winter, the driest on records in some parts, with many people reporting a very poor fungi season. The dry eucalypt forests, which can yield a high diversity of species in wet years, had a poor showing, while shaded gullies that remain moist when other areas dry out were more rewarding places to search.

Despite this, a surprisingly good number of target species was found during an early October field trip to Frankford

in central north Tasmania. Many Black Morels *Morchella elata* were spotted growing in the closed eucalypt forest, with other targets including *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*, *Tubaria rufofulva*, *Anthracocephalum archeri* and *Tremella fuciformis*.

As is usually the case when vegetable caterpillars are spotted, the discovery of the Antlered Cordyceps *Cordyceps robertsii* sparked interest from those in the Field Naturalists unfamiliar with this intriguing group of parasitic fungi.

ALSO SEE PAGE 10 FOR FURTHER NEWS FROM TASMANIA

News from the Queensland Mycological Society (QMS) and South East Queensland (SEQ)

Sapphire McMullan-Fisher

Mycology was in the news! Press releases during the eighth International Mycological Congress (IMC8) in August 2006, held in Cairns, gave fungi a few media moments. For other things mycological the conference foray to the Daintree found a few mycological subjects, including: *Microporus xanthopus*, *Phellinus* sp., *Pholiota* sp. and *Pycnoporus coccineus*. *Balanophora fungosa* found at Jindalpa gets an honourable mention despite its being a parasitic plant! There were many great workshops – I attended Teresa Lebel’s terrific truffle workshop. The guts of the conference was amazing – so many talks on so many subjects. I’d never realized that: there were so many marine fungi, that corticioid fungi could be mycorrhizal or that there were corticioid fungi in the Russulales! There were also so many inspiring scientists – David Hawksworth gave a great talk, similar to his ‘who will look after the Orphans’ from 1996 but with the latest developments. Somehow, despite mycologists being an ‘endangered species’, there was a lot of hope at the conference, although some of the forest diseases spread by humans are frightening. There were even a few eminent women speakers like Lorelei Norvell and Meredith Blackwell. Graham Patterson manned the Fungimap table in the main hall, selling Fungimap and fungal paraphernalia to local and international participants alike. The Australasian Mycological Society also celebrated their 10th Anniversary in style with a HUGE chocolate cake!

For some events closer to home QMS (Queensland Mycological Society) has had several interesting talks: in August Tony Young waxed lyrical about the weird and wonderful gasteromycetes; in September Diana Leemon explained “Why the Forgotten Fungal Kingdom is really the Fabulous Fungal Kingdom”. In October I gave a talk highlighting the 68 Fungimap targets which have been recorded in Queensland, hoping to stimulate more records.

During September I gave a talk and workshop at Maleny and a fungal foray in Mapleton. Despite the dry conditions we found about 25 taxa in the Mapleton state forest, including targets *Lycogala epidendrum* and *Anthracophyllum archeri*, which covered much of the twigs in the litter layers. The usual nameless polypores and corticioid fungi were common and there were also a few fleshy fungi *Fistulinella mollis*, *Rhodocollybia butyracea*, *Amanita* spp. and *Cortinarius* spp. Thanks to Cali Salzmänn for her organisation and Barung Landcare for support.

November 2006 will be a busy month for QMS with the first BATH survey weekend on the 10-12 Nov. BATH ‘Biodiversity at the Heights’ project is an international study of biodiversity in Lamington National Park. QMS

are surveying for the fungi. On the 14th November Dr Evelin Tiralongo will present “The Pharmaceutical Potential of Macrofungi”. The final QMS meeting will be held on December 5th with an address by Roley Sussex titled “Naming of Fungi”. The meeting will finish up with some festive season food and frivolity!

Look forward to seeing you all at Fungimap IV conference (31 May–5 June 2007) at Natural Bridge near the NSW border in the Gold Coast Hinterland, where you will see some amazing bush and get to know the folk from QMS.



Graham Patterson at the Fungimap table. IMC8

News from Western Australia

Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project

PUBF team: Neale Bougher, Roz Hart & Sarah de Bueger

Our local Perth metropolitan area fungi field season finished later than usual, in August. Due to extremely low winter rainfall in Perth, there was a poor fungi fruiting season. Fortunately, the enthusiasm for fungi has continued despite the dry conditions and we had a lot of public interest and participation in the community fungi forays organised by the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project (PUBF).

A new exciting initiative for the Project occurred this year: funding provided by the Swan Catchment Centre allowed the organisation of two workshops and provision of fungi kits exclusively for Local Government Officers, the Environment, Bushcare and Conservation Officers who are responsible for the management of urban bushlands. These workshops focused on the management of fungi in urban bushlands as well as covering the usual fungi workshop issues such as identification, photography and recording of fungi.

PUBF Project (continued)

The Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project team has just finished processing the data on the fungi collected this year and writing reports for the twelve bushlands which were surveyed for fungi. The 2006 season update and all bushland fungi reports are now posted on the Project website. Hardcopies of the fungi reports will be presented to the representatives of the bushlands involved as well as to the Urban Bushland Council and the WA Naturalists Club, at an event to be organized as a lead up to the 2007 fungi season.

From March 2004 to October 2006, the PUBF has involved an amazing total of 2,409 people. Fungi surveys have been produced for 38 urban bushlands in the Perth Metropolitan Region, including 25 of the 40 Department of Environment and Conservation's reference sites, formerly Bush Forever Reference Sites. The total number of fungi recorded by the Project is 2,989, represented by 283 species. This is an extremely conservative estimate of species because in many cases a name may include more than one species, e.g. the phrase name category "Amanita sp." may include up to 20 different species. With further time and resources the species hidden within these compiled names may be elucidated. Twenty-two Fungimap Target species have been recorded and these data have been sent to Fungimap. The most commonly recorded species were the Golden Wood Fungus *Gymnopilus allantopus* (107 records), the Scarlet Bracket Fungus *Pycnoporus coccineus* (86) and the Yellow Brain Fungus *Tremella mesenterica* group (58). PUBF has been responsible for 395 fungi collected from urban bushlands which have been vouchered into the WA Herbarium.

The PUBF Project has now built a solid foundation for a system to monitor and understand the diversity, geographic distribution, and abundance or rarity of fungi in the Perth Region. We have produced a matrix of data which plots each of the fungi recorded against each of the bushlands where they occur. This matrix, together with the descriptive and georeference data embodied in PUBF fungi survey reports for each of the bushlands, as well as detailed information for specimens permanently lodged in the WA Herbarium, is the basis of the solid foundation.

It has been most heartening this year to have more Local Government Officers and Friends groups contacting the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project requesting our fungi events in their local bushland. Word is obviously spreading. PUBF aims to empower interested groups so that they can learn how to conduct their own fungi surveys. Volunteer John Weaver has been busy running workshops teaching the extremely useful georeferencing system that he designed for the Project. Future phases of PUBF, if funded, would intend to support such surveys. Ideally these surveys could provide some specimens for permanent lodgement and taxonomic studies at the WA Herbarium.

The PUBF website is maintained by Webmaster John Weaver. In addition to the posting of fungi reports for the twelve bushlands surveyed in 2006, the online Perth Fungi Field has been updated and expanded with the addition of many new fungi.

Application for future funding is underway with a working group established. There is good momentum within the community and landcarers who are actively seeking assistance and information about fungi and their roles and importance in bushland management. It is hoped that the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project will continue, as there is still much to be done to build on the foundation created so far.



Examining fungi collected at the PUBF walk in Koondoola Regional Park walk, June 2006
Photo: PUBF

News from NSW

Bettye Rees

The second half of the year is usually a quieter time in New South Wales after the end of the annual agaric season in mid- to late June. The Sydney Fungal Studies Group Inc. has livened up the second half of the year with an annual day-long workshop made up of fungal talks accompanied by displays of members' activities in a neighbouring lab in the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science at the University of New South Wales. One year the entire group present participated in the extraction of DNA from fungal material and on another occasion the group thoroughly enjoyed a cook-up of locally produced edible mushrooms.

At this year's SFSG workshop, capably organised by Don and Judith Gover and chaired by Ray Kearney, a totally new subject of Biofilms was introduced by Ray, which at first sight seemed unrelated to fungal activities. To our amazement we heard that fungi can also be involved in biofilm formation, particularly in the case of yeasts such as *Candida albicans* in the medical field, rendering them difficult to treat. Other talks centring on mycorrhizal fungi included epacrid mycorrhizas and progress in research with *Hebeloma*, a mycorrhizal symbiont of forest trees in Australia.

News from NSW (continued)

Further progress with the role of fungi present in cropping soils extended findings from a previous talk on the subject at last year's workshop. At the end of the day a fascinating review of the activities of fungi growing in termite mounds raised the question of whether we have any *Termitomyces* present in Australian termite mounds. The only record of fungal activity in the mounds was a sighting of a ?*Battarrea* species by one of our members in a mound in N. Qld. Any further news on this topic would be welcome. The talk also included some information about those other fungal "farmers" the ants, propagating "Attine" fungi.

Displays of recent publications, lichens and other materials were squeezed in after a scrumptious "bring a plate" lunch between sessions. Final activity for the year will be the annual Xmas party, a function to be held in the seminar room of the McMaster's building at Sydney University on Saturday 25th November at 12 noon. This is a self-catered function, with "bring a festive plate and drink". All are welcome and further details are available from dgover@bigpond.net.au

News from Victoria

Paul George

Winter in Victoria has been unusually dry and, despite the promising autumn start, the fungi season proved much shorter than usual. Nonetheless, our keen forayers found quite a few interesting fungi.

On a typically wet and wintry July day at Blackwood we rediscovered the small, dark-brown, long-toothed fungus on the bark of a living Peppermint (probably *E. radiata*) - the same tree on which we saw it last season. A large, slimy-capped caramel-coloured species, initially thought to be a *Hebeloma*, dropped a white spore print overnight (not the pinkish-brown/tan of a *Hebeloma*). This suggested *Tricholoma eucalypticum*. Quite a few *Cortinarius* and *Dermocybe* spp. were also found.

Two weeks later the Friends of Mt Worth SP and the Friends of Morwell NP joined us at Mt Worth. Two species of Vegetable Caterpillars, *Cordyceps gunnii* and *C. hawkesii* were seen. A slime mould *Leocarpus fragilis* was also found, with its sporangia attached to a piece of grass lying on top of a gum leaf. A group of tiny, white bladders hanging from a short stipe was found on very rotten wood. The blunt and somewhat folded fruit bodies (similar in shape to a capsicum) were probably *Physalacria* sp. *Beenakia dacostae* was found growing high on a tree-fern trunk - we had previously seen this only on dry, woody debris under logs.

By the end of July, 'The Beeches' was noticeably drier. However, the rare *Chlorovibrissea bicolor* was again

found on the banks of Whitehouse Creek where it was discovered last year.

The Cathedral Range revealed a large number of colourful *Hygrocybe* spp., many of which we could not identify. One of the many Lyrebirds that had entertained us throughout the afternoon with their delightful songs had unearthed a truffle in its scratchings. The thin white peridium was stained with rusty spots and the dry, pale lilac brown gleba had irregular flattened empty chambers arranged in a radial pattern from the base. Teresa Lebel identified this as the rare *Timgrovea reticulata*.

By the end of August the fungi season had all but finished and our foray to Wanderslore in the Yarra Valley revealed only 16 fungi species, although the slime moulds seemed to enjoy the warmer weather. The September rains were very poor this year and the spring flush of fungi was almost non-existent. However, our final foray in October to Kinglake (an area that had been severely burnt in last summer's bushfires) rewarded us with a number of species that flourish after fire - morels (*Morchella elata* group), *Anthracobia* sp., *Pholiota highlandensis*, *Pyronema* sp. and a large mass of tiny Geopyxis-like brown cups on the burnt ground.

News from SA

Pam Catcheside

The very dry weather in the last few months has resulted in a dearth of fungal fruit bodies. Mostly dryland species were recorded on a foray of the Adelaide Fungal Studies Group to Reeves Plains, a sand dune community north of Adelaide. An uncommon species, *Mycenastrum corium*, a large puffball with a thick, leathery peridium (skin) which opens in a stellate manner was collected. This earthball has characteristic twig-like hyphae with thorn-like projections. Two small, stalked puffballs, *Tulostoma readeri* and *T. jourdanii* and an acorn puffball, *Disciseda verrucosa* were also collected.

Reports from members of AFSG include a 'forest' of earth tongues, *Geoglossum umbratile*, consisting of approximately 60 fruit bodies on a stream bank in Mount Billy Conservation Park, south of Adelaide. In Belair National Park cortinariae such as the beautiful pale lilac *Cortinarius alboviolaceus* and deep purple *C. archeri* were found, also Fungimap species *Dermocybe austroveneta* Green Skinhead and *Gymnopilus junonius* Spectacular Rustgill.

More dryland species were recorded from the Gawler Ranges, including two *Discisedas*, *Tulostoma* spp. and *Pisolithus* sp. Near Innamincka in the north-west of the State, *Battarrea stevenii*, Tall Stiltball, was collected together with Black Powderpuff, *Podaxis pistillarlis*.

Recherche Bay, southern Tasmania - a site of great beauty and historic importance

Sarah Lloyd

At the Fungimap committee meeting held in Waratah in April it was decided that Fungimap would send \$100 to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy for its fund to acquire Recherche Bay in southern Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy was established to purchase parcels of land of high conservation value and establish them as permanent reserves. It also operates a revolving fund whereby land of high conservation value is first purchased, placed under conservation covenant and then sold.

Recherche Bay has been the focus of a long-standing conservation battle. Until recently it was privately owned and destined to be logged. But with areas of high conservation and cultural significance, scientists, conservationists, archaeologists and the general public combined forces in an effort to have the site permanently reserved.

Recherche Bay is not only an area of outstanding natural beauty, it is also the site where French explorers set up a garden, an observatory and established friendly relationships with the local aboriginal people prior to European settlement.

The main purpose of the D'Entrecasteaux expedition, the largest and best equipped expedition to leave France in the late 18th century, was to find the missing explorer La Perouse, but the fleet visited Recherche Bay on two occasions to seek refuge and replenish supplies. While there the team of scientists charted areas of the coast and astronomer, Rossel, discovered geo-magnetism of significance to navigational science. They also collected, catalogued and described hundreds of plant specimens. In 1792 French naturalist Jacques-Julien Houtou de Labillardiere was the first European to scientifically describe a fungus in Australia after finding the Anemone Stinkhorn *Aseroë rubra*.

An effort to raise money to acquire the land received an enormous boost when entrepreneur Dick Smith and his wife, Pip, pledged significant funds (both a donation and a loan) to secure the area for its preservation. The Tasmanian government subsequently gave a further \$400,000.

For more details on how to contribute contact: www.tasland.org.au or email info@tasland.org.au

LETTERS

Mycorrhiza or Desertification

This year, 2006, is the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. IYDD alerting to the fact that one third of Earth is desertified. Having visited most of our Western Australian deserts, I marvel at the difference between our deserts and those of other countries such as in Africa.

Even our sand dunes are stabilised by sparse vegetation and although I have only visited them in the cooler months (May to September), I have always found fungi. I wondered if this sparse vegetation of our desert areas was due to a healthy mycorrhizal population, which is perhaps absent in the non-vegetated deserts of some other countries.

Do we have any records of mycorrhizal populations in deserts as in Africa? Perhaps this International Year of Desertification is a great opportunity to increase awareness of mycorrhizal symbiosis.

Mary H. Bremner
238 Salvado Rd
Wembley WA 6014

A Myxomycete website

Subject: Mapping myxos

We now have a new mapping component on our project web site:

1. Go to our project web site <http://slimemold.uark.edu>
2. Go to "Searchable Databases"
3. On the right side, type in a name of a species in the box marked "Enter common or scientific name"
4. This takes you to a developing species page
5. On the page, go to "Globalmap"
6. You can "zoom in" on particular portions of the map

Dr. Steven L. Stephenson
Research Professor
SCEN 626
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

(This is a wonderful website, with superb photos of myxomycetes, descriptions, references, as well as maps. Editor.)

Letters (continued)***Junghuhnia rhinocephala***

Dear fellow field mycologists,

My name is Genevieve Gates and I am doing a PhD in Tasmania on macrofungi and coarse woody debris. One aspect of my study is the identification of fungal indicator species or a suite of species that may be faithful to a decay class or a species of wood. Just from current (my plots) and past observations (over 7 years) it seems that *Junghuhnia rhinocephala* (Berk.) Ryvarden only occurs on fallen *Pomaderris* (*apetala*).

Junghuhnia rhinocephala is a polypore that eventually forms small brackets to approximately 4 cm across, at least in our experience. The hymenial porous surface is usually a pale brown and the abhymenial upper surface a buff

brown. The most distinguishing field characteristic is the strong, sweet odour reminiscent of vanilla or coconut suntan oil. This odour is present even in the very small fruiting bodies. If you are familiar with this species, could you please note the substrate, wood diameter and decay class (have a go) and send me the record. The challenge is to find it on a substrate other than *Pomaderris*, which may well be the case on the mainland. Here in Tasmania, Sarah Lloyd, David Ratkowsky and I have only found it on *Pomaderris*.

Thank you,

Genevieve

Email: ggates@postoffice.utas.edu.au
9 Winmarleigh Ave, Taroona 7053, Tas.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2007

Hidden in Plain View: the Forgotten Flora - travelling exhibition, regional Victoria

- Horsham Regional Art Gallery: 9 Jan - 4 Mar
- McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park: 7 Apr - 11 Jun
- Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery: 20 Aug - 7 Oct
- Gippsland Art Gallery: 13 Oct - 11 Nov
- Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne: 24 Nov - 17 Dec

Website: http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/research_and_conservation/publications/forgotten_flora

1st National Australasian Network for Plant Conservation Forum: Canberra ACT

Theme: What lies beneath: the role of soil biota in the health and rehabilitation of native vegetation

Date: 18-20 April 2007

Venue: CSIRO Discovery Theatre, Black Mountain, Canberra, ACT

Website: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/conferences.html>

21st New Zealand Fungal Foray

Date: Sun 6th - Sat 12th May 2007

Venue: Mawley Park Motor Camp, Masterton, New Zealand

Website: <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biodiversity/fungiprogram/foray/>

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne - Forgotten Flora Discovery Day

Details: Exploring Fungi, Lichens, Mosses and other Cryptogams at RBG Cranbourne with Teresa Lebel, Pina Milne and Niels Klazenga. This Discovery Day coincides with THE FORGOTTEN FLORA Travelling Exhibition on display at the McClelland Gallery & Sculpture Park, Langwarrin.

Date: Sun 27 May 2007

Venue: Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, Victoria

Contact: Rodger Elliot Ph: 03 9879 1427

Fungimap IV Conference

Date: 31st May - 5th June 2007

Venue: Camp Bornhoffen, Natural Bridge, Queensland

Website: <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap/>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: FUNGIMAP RECORDERS AND OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

AUSTRALIA

(state not known, by email)

Frances Cohn 5
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 Evelyn Elfick 9
 Roy & Joan Freere 3
 Wayne Jeffery 1
 Katie Little 1
 Jackie Miles 16
 Matthew Navybox 1
 Chris Rehburg 1
 Erwin Ryba 2
 Robert Taylor 1
 Teresa Van Der Heul 27
 Scott Young 1

QLD

Ray & Noreen Baxter 18
 Roslyn Blackband 1
 Peter Fast 1
 Jutta Godwin 2
 Sapphire McMullan-Fisher 24

SA

Adelaide Fungal Studies 21
 Pamela Catcheside 71

TAS

Benjamin Campbell 1
 Patricia Harrisson 2
 Bryony Horton 7

VIC

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 Cecily Falkingham 38
 Rosemary Kidd 11
 Ivan Margitta 38
 Malcolm McKinty 16
 Jenny O'Donnell 14
 Graham Patterson 2
 Ray Power 1
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 Lorraine Schorg 2
 FNCV 27
 Nigel Sinnott 1

WA

Roz Hart 1
 Jolanda Keeble 1
 Grant MacKinnon 1
 PUBF Project 257
 Richard Robinson 5

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This Fungimap Newsletter was edited by Pam Catcheside, Sarah Jacob & Tom May.

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