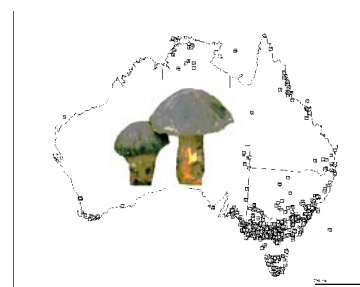


AUSTRALIA'S FUNGI MAPPING SCHEME

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NATIONAL COMMUNITY-LINK VOLUNTEER AWARD TO FNCV FOR FUNGIMAP CD-ROM

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria is the recipient of a National Community-Link Volunteer Award for the Fungimap CD-ROM project. The Club is the Victorian winner in the environment, conservation and heritage category of the Awards, which means a prize of \$5,000 and a framed certificate of achievement.

The Award is in recognition of the numerous voluntary contributions to Fungimap and to the CD-ROM. In particular, all the text and photos on the CD-ROM were contributed by volunteers, as were the thousands of records of Fungimap target species which are the basis for the maps on the CD-ROM. Congratulations to all who contributed, and especially Ian Bell, who conceived of and programmed the CD-ROM, putting in many hours of his own time on the project.

News from the FUNGIMAP Coordinator

Although, by all accounts, this year was not a good season for fungi, it has been a very good year for Fungimap!

At the start of the season we launched our CD-ROM, which has been selling very rapidly both to Fungimappers and to many other interested people through our website. It has also gone on to win a National Community-Link Volunteer Award (see above).

In June, the inaugural Fungimap Conference was held in Denmark, south-west WA, and was attended by over 120 enthusiastic Fungimappers. For a report of the conference see pages 6–7; particular thanks to Katie Syme and her colleagues at the Denmark Environment Centre, whose detailed planning ensured all present had a fantastic time, and learnt lots about fungi.

On the administrative front, we have had a change of Regional Coordinator in Tasmania (see page 8). David Ratkowsky has decided to step down from this position, due to time constraints (his interest in fungi and Fungimap continues unabated!), and we are all very sorry to lose him. We thank David for his contribution to Fungimap over the years. We are delighted to welcome Sapphire McMullan-Fisher to the position, and her biography appears on page 9.

I am on leave for the next few weeks; when I return, **from 24th November I will be working 4 days a week (Monday – Thursday)**. This will allow me to spend time each week maintaining the database, and dealing with the multitude of records we have received this year. I should also be able to get on top of the correspondence – my apologies to those of you still awaiting a response, and my thanks for your patience.

The acknowledgements section does not appear in this newsletter – there is so much going on that we ran out of room! It will appear, fully updated, in the next newsletter early next year.

Gudrun Arnold
Fungimap Coordinator



Contacting FUNGIMAP



Fungimap Central

Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
Birdwood Avenue
South Yarra VIC 3141

Coordinator: Gudrun Arnold
Telephone: (03) 9252 2374 (Mon - Thurs)
E-mail: fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au
Website: <http://calcite.apana.org.au/fungimap>

Regional Coordinators

These wonderful people contribute their time and experience voluntarily, because they love fungi! They all know lots about fungi, and run workshops and forays from time to time.

New South Wales:

Bettye Rees
C/- 10 Lloyd Avenue
Hunters Hill NSW 2110
E-mail: B.Rees@unsw.edu.au

Western Australia:

Katrina Syme
C/- Denmark Environment Centre
PO Box 142
Denmark WA 6333
E-mail: environ@denmarkwa.net.au

Tasmania:

Sapphire McMullan-Fisher
Geography and Environment
University of Tasmania
GPO Box 252-78
Hobart TAS 7001
E-mail: smcmulla@postoffice.utas.edu.au

South Australia:

Pam Catcheside
C/- 72 Eve Road
Belleview Heights SA 5050
E-mail: dpcatchi@arcom.com.au

Australian Capital Territory:

Heino Lepp
C/- PO Box 38
Belconnen ACT 2616
E-mail: Judith.Curnow@ea.gov.au

INTERESTING GROUPS

Sydney Fungal Studies Group

Runs fungi forays, talks and workshops in the Sydney area.

Secretary: Donald Gover

5 Dawes Street
Little Bay NSW 2036
Tel: (02) 9661 4898
E-mail: donauldgover@telstra.easymail.com.au
Website: <http://argus.appsci.unsw.edu.au/fungi>

Adelaide Fungal Studies Group

The Adelaide Fungal Studies Group started in July 2001. It is a Club of the Field Naturalists Society of South Australia, Inc.

Fungal forays: second Saturday of each month during the fungal season (April - September). Excursions for 2002 will be decided at a planning meeting in March, 2002.

Meetings: second Tuesday of each month from March to October at the Plant Biodiversity Centre, Hackney Road, Hackney, SA 5069.

Convenor: Pam Catcheside

Tel: (08) 8278 5004
E-mail: dpcatchi@arcom.com.au

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Natural History

We were delighted to learn recently that the Fungimap website (<http://calcite.apana.org.au/fungimap>) has been added to "Natural Selection" (<http://nature.ac.uk/>), a listing of quality evaluated internet resources in the natural world, coordinated by the Natural History Museum, London. This site is part of a network called BIOME (<http://biome.ac.uk/biome.html>), an integrated collection of internet gateways covering the health and life sciences.

Fungi

- ◆ **RBG fungi pages:** <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungi/>
- ◆ **Taylor Lockwood:** <http://www.fungiphoto.com> – a collection of artistic fungi photos.
- ◆ **The Hidden Forest:** <http://www.hiddenforest.co.nz> – forest fungi from New Zealand, photographed by Clive Shirley.
- ◆ **MykoWeb:** <http://www.mykoweb.com/> American fungi, including the "Fungi of California", photographed by Michael Wood and Fred Stevens.

CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES - A MYSTERY SOLVED?

Tom May (Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne)

When Katie Syme was interviewed by a local radio station during the Fungimap Conference, the question that really stumped her was not one about how to tell *Gymnopilus* from *Galerina* (easy!) but a casual query from the interviewer - 'so where do chocolate truffles fit into all this?'. I think that Katie was justifiably speechless, but I suppose the simple answer is that chocolate truffles are what fungus hunters have when the fungus hunting is over for the day. That is certainly the approach of Ian Bell, Fungimap's resident chocolate fungi expert, although Ian is inclined to prefer mini chocolate mushrooms, and to bring them out during a lull in the foraging (in fact he doesn't just bring them out, he pops them neatly among some leaf litter to deceive the fungus hunter who hasn't managed to find a fungus for a while).

I thought that the matter would rest there until yesterday, when I gave a presentation on fungi to a class of Grade 5 students at the Caulfield Montessori School. They listened attentively while I told them about spores and spore prints, and about mushrooms and moulds. They were most interested in the interactions between truffles and animals, and after a few stabs in the dark about bats and sheep we established that native truffles were eaten by potoroos. Their questions went off on all sorts of tangents. We talked about poisonous fungi and about how you couldn't really test if a mushroom was poisonous because maybe it would have an unknown toxin. So even if other animals such as

slugs and beetles could eat the fungus, we couldn't be sure that they would be palatable for humans. This led to speculation as to whether a beetle which had eaten a poisonous fungus would itself be poisonous, although we agreed that there were even less people with an interest in eating beetles of unknown edibility than fungi in the same category. One little girl who had been rather quiet until now started to look restless and popped her hand up to ask a question. With a worried look on her face, she very tentatively asked if chocolate truffles had anything to do with the native truffles that we had been discussing.

Clearly this is a question that is concerning enquiring minds across the country. I am pleased to be able to reveal that detailed biochemical, olfactory and masticatory experiments (chiefly by Dr Teresa Lebel) in the laboratories of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne have demonstrated, rather unexpectedly, that the closest relative of chocolate truffles is in fact the 'Freddo Frog'. We are currently using similar methods to test a theory that the Choc Royal is actually a single massive perithecium with an occluded ostiole. We have also recently heard of a controversial alternative evolutionary relationship about chocolate truffles which links them to easter eggs. How many more chocolate truffles will need to be consumed before we know the truth?

GIANT MUSHROOM - ANOTHER MYSTERY SOLVED

Tom May (Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne)

On the front page of *Fungimap Newsletter* 14, Henk Voogt was shown sitting next to a rather large gilled fungus found on the Atherton Tableland in Queensland. Flipping through the *Australasian Mycologist* recently, I came across an article by Tony Young on the Giant Agaric, *Tricholoma crassum* (*Australas. Mycol.* 17: 25-26, 1998). Tony reported on sightings of this fungus from the Moreton Bay area of Queensland. Fruit bodies are white to creamy white, with a white spore print, and reach almost half a metre in diameter, and up to 30 cm high. The cap is noted as being lobed and irregular - just as shown in Henk's photo. Perhaps this species would make a good Fungimap target - suitable for those who wish to survey fungi from their car!

FUNGAL FUNWORD SOLUTION

©Sydney Fungal Studies Group

Many thanks to Don Gover of the SFSG for allowing us to use their Fungal Funword, which appeared in *Fungimap Newsletter* 14. For those left wondering, here is the solution!



FUNGIMAP RESOURCES UPDATE

Fungimap CD-ROM



The CD-ROM has proved remarkably popular –we have almost sold out of the first 500, and have had to order more. For those who have not yet purchased a copy, it comes highly recommended!

It features more than 700 colour illustrations covering most of the target species, and distribution maps based on the Fungimap project for all target species. The format is very easy to use.

Inevitably some errors have been reported: these are listed on page 5.

Note: the CD-ROM is not compatible with Macs. To run it you will need PC / Windows, a minimum screen resolution of 800 x 600, and high colour.

Cost: \$15.00 (GST inclusive) plus \$3.00 postage = **\$18.00**

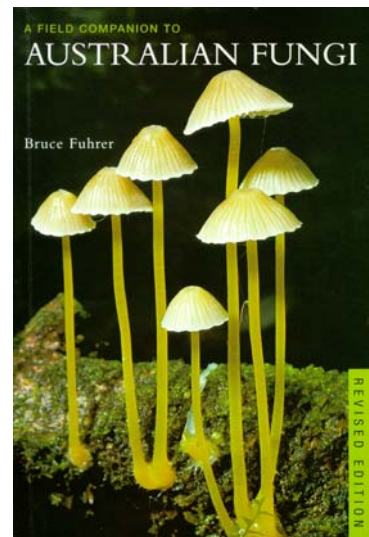
Bruce Fuhrer's *A Field Companion To Australian Fungi*

This enduringly popular field guide has just been reprinted, in a revised edition with a soft cover. It is still the same compact size (good for field work), and although the cover photograph has changed, those who own the previous edition can be reassured that the photos on the inside are the same. The text is essentially the same, although some species names have been changed to reflect current taxonomy.

It features stunning photos of 138 species of fungi, including approximately 50 Fungimap target species.

For anybody who doesn't already own this book, and is interested in Australian fungi, it really is a must-buy!

Cost: \$24.95 (GST inclusive) plus \$3.00 postage = **\$27.95**



The Victorian Naturalist colour fungi issue 118(2)



This special issue contains several pages of colour photos (many taken by fungimappers) of 15 of the Fungimap target species, and an article giving brief notes on the illustrated species. Included are illustrations of the rare *Hypocreopsis* species from southern Victoria, and other rare species such as *Rozites roseolilacina* and *Nyctalis mirabilis*. Some common species that have been omitted from recent field guides are also included, such as *Dictyopanus pusillus*. The issue also includes an article about 'Native Truffles of Australia' by Teresa Lebel, accompanied by colour illustrations of different truffles.

Cost: \$5.00 (GST inclusive) plus \$0.50 postage = **\$5.50**

Species illustrated in fungimap target species photos – see page 5 for details

Poster 1

Mycocacia subceracea
Stereum hirsutum
Panus fasciatus
Boletellus obscurecoccineus
Poronia erici
Armillaria luteobubalina
Leucopaxillus lilacinus
Fistulina hepatica
Cyttaria gunnii
Mycena austrororida

Poster 2

Amanita xanthodermis
Neolentinus dactyloides
Ileodictyon gracile
Omphalotus nidiformis
Ascocoryne sarcoides
Piptoporus australiensis
Mycena interrupta
Dermocybe splendida
Anthracophyllum archeri
Pseudohydnum gelatinosum

Poster 3

Amanita xanthocephala
Coprinus comatus
Macrotyphula juncea
Cortinarius rotundisporus
Hygrocybe graminicolor
Polyporus mylittae
Tremella mesenterica
Hebeloma aminophilum
Gymnopilus pampeanus
Mycena leaiana

Poster 4

Amanita muscaria
Podoserpula pusio
Mucronella pendula
Tubaria rufofulva
Marasmius elegans
Plectania campylospora
Hygrophanous lewellinae
Dermocybe austroveneta
Morchella elata
Xerula australis
Omphalina chromacea

Fungimap Target Species posters

Special Offer - Limited Edition

Richard Robinson of CALM in WA has prepared a set of fungi posters, which he is offering to Fungimap members. **This is a once-off offer, and at this stage only 50 sets are available.**

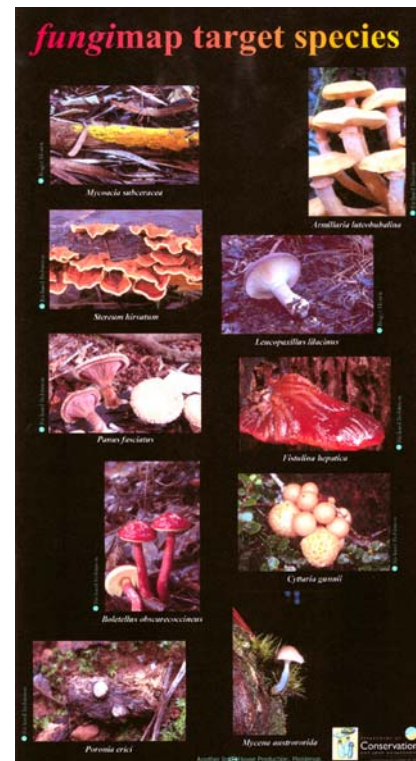
We are very grateful to Richard for this offer, and also acknowledge the contribution by the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management. The photos featured were taken and supplied by Richard Robinson, Roger Hearn and Bruce Fuhrer

The posters: a set of four A3 size posters, printed on glossy paper, with 10 – 11 Fungimap target species illustrated on each poster (see list on page 4). The actual posters will be slightly different to the one pictured, as they will have the conference title along one side.

To order: send a cheque or money-order (details below) together with your name and address, to Gudrun before 30th November.

Orders will be filled in the order received. If you placed an order at the Conference a set will be held for you until 30th November. If we experience overwhelming demand we may be able to arrange a larger order, but this is not guaranteed. If we are unable to fill your order, your cheque will be returned. The posters will be available in December.

Cost: \$40.00 (GST inclusive) for set of four A3 posters= **\$40.00**



Ordering from Fungimap

By cheque:

All cheques and money orders must be made out to the “**Field Naturalists Club of Victoria**”, and should be sent to:

Fungimap
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
Birdwood Avenue
South Yarra, VIC 3141

By credit card:

Credit card orders for the CD-ROM only can be taken over the telephone by Karen Dobson at the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria office:

Telephone: (03) 9877 9860 (Mon, Wed, Fri)

Enquiries:

All enquiries should be addressed to the Fungimap Coordinator, Gudrun Arnold, at the Botanic Gardens:

Telephone: (03) 9252 2374 (Mon – Thurs)

E-mail: fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au

The CD-ROM errata list was compiled by Gudrun Arnold with the assistance of Nigel Sinnott, David Catcheside and Di Williams. Our apologies to everyone whose photos were miscredited: with over 700 photos it was inevitable that there would be a few errors. These will be corrected in the next version. We are aware that in the “How to use this CD-ROM” section there is some corrupted text where the titles appear on top of each other; however, if you find any other errors please let us know so they can be corrected in the future.

CD-ROM Version 1.0 Errata

- ◆ Photos 2 & 3 of *Hypocreopsis* species: ©John Eichler.
- ◆ Photo 1 of *Lepista nuda* ©Di Williams
- ◆ Photos 5, 6, 7 & 8 of *Morchella elata* group: ©Nigel Sinnott.
- ◆ Photos 3 & 4 of *Hebeloma aminophilum*; photo 2 of *Rozites symeae*: “Photograph by Neale Bougher © CSIRO 2001”.
- ◆ Photo 3 of *Anthracoephyllum archeri*; photo 3 of *Ascocoryne sarcoides*; photo 2 of *Beenakea dacostae*; photos 1 & 2 of *Claustula fischeri*; photo 2 of *Hygrophorus lewellinae*; photos 1 & 2 of *Mycena leaiana*; photo 4 of *Mycena viscidocruenta*; photo 2 of *Stereum ostrea*: ©Genevieve Gates & David Ratkowsky.
- ◆ Photos 2 & 3 of *Neolentinus dactyloides*: ©David Catcheside.
- ◆ Photo 8 of *Battarrea stevenii*: “Photo held at National Herbarium of Victoria”.
- ◆ Photo 19 of *Aseroe rubra*, is *Schizophyllum commune*.
- ◆ Photo 6 of *Boletellus obscurecoccineus* is not this species – unidentified
- ◆ The distribution maps for *Amanita austroviridis* & *Amanita chlorophylla* have been juxtaposed.
- ◆ Photo 1 of *Hericium clathroides*: “-unbranched form”.
- ◆ Photos 19, 20 & 21 of *Amanita xanthocephala*: location is “Bundanoon”.
- ◆ Photo 3 of *Boletellus obscurecoccineus*: “Habitat: *Eucalyptus radiata* ...”.
- ◆ Photo 1 of *Dictyophora indusiata*: location is “Cairns Botanical Gardens”.
- ◆ Thumbnail photo for *Morchella esculenta* is actually of *Morchella elata*.

fungimap

Inaugural National Conference

22 - 26 June 2001

Denmark Western Australia

FUNGIMAP CONFERENCE REPORT

By Pam Catcheside, SA Regional Coordinator

Over 120 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, USA and UK attended the conference. It was conducted over a period of five days.

Day 1

On the first day, following welcoming and opening addresses, eleven talks were given covering topics such as the Fungimap project, the flora of WA, mycorrhizal associations, fungi and fire, truffles, ascomycetes, Amanitas of New Zealand, weird fungi, fungi in the WA wheatbelt and in the Kimberleys. As one of the conference speakers, I gave a talk on Surveys of Fungi in South Australia.

Days 2-4 inclusive

The programme for the next three days consisted of forays each morning and workshops each afternoon.

In the field

Each day, a variety of observation / collecting sites covering a range of habitats were listed. Delegates selected the site they wished to visit and leaders with mycological expertise were assigned to each group. The average size of each group was 8

– 10, enabling each member of the group to see fungal specimens *in situ*, and appreciate features used in their identification as they were pointed out by the group leader. Each fungus could usually be identified at least to genus level and diagnostic characters for the genus were explained. A list was made of species seen in each locality. Five to seven species per group were collected. All group leaders had permits to collect fungi in WA.

In the "laboratory"

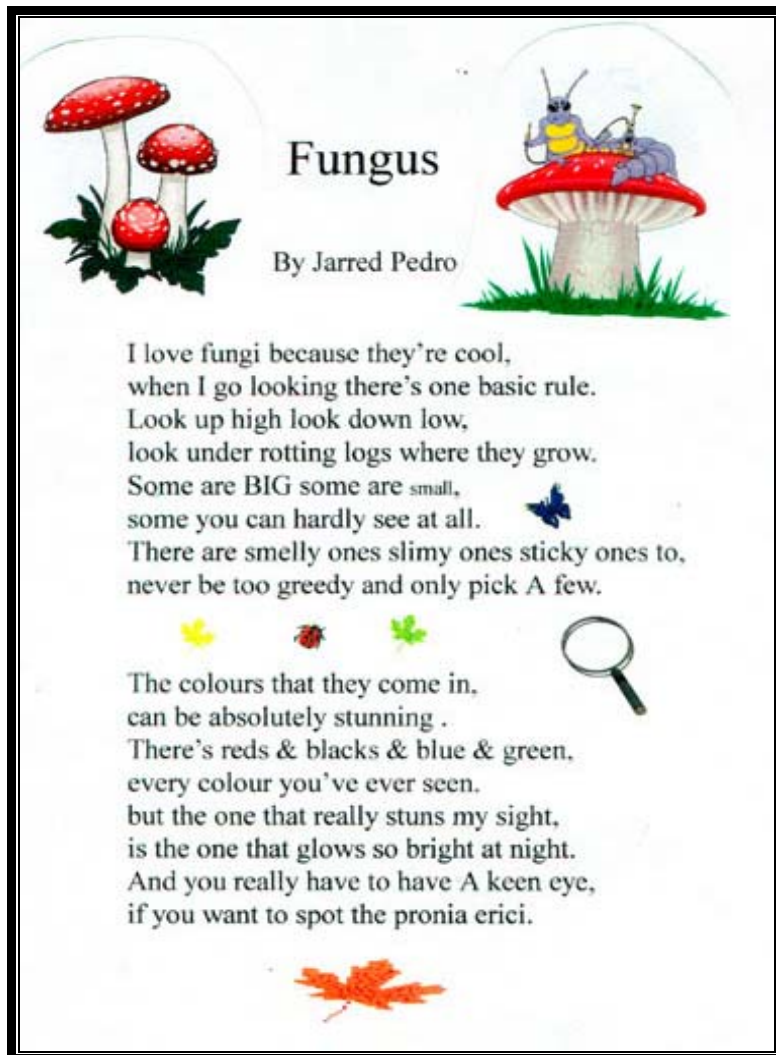
After the morning in the field, collections with site descriptions were taken back to the main hall and put on display tables. Collections of rare or unusual fungi that would become permanent collections were separated from those that would be used in the afternoon workshops. Fungi for permanent collections were dried in preparation for deposition in the WA Herbarium.

Lists were given to a central co-ordinator and will be displayed on the Fungimap website, <http://calcite.apana.org.au/fungimap/>



Conference participants at the Denmark Environment Centre, WA - June 2001.

Photo from the *Denmark Extra*, 7 July 2001



Poem by Jarred Pedro, age 11 – the youngest delegate to the Conference

Workshops

A number of alternative workshops were offered to delegates:

- ◆ Fungal identification for beginners
- ◆ Macrofungi identification, including the use of keys*
- ◆ Fungimap CD-ROM, Internet resources for fungi*
- ◆ Microscopy
- ◆ Truffle identification*
- ◆ Preparation of fungal specimens for the herbarium
- ◆ Conducting surveys of macrofungi

* These workshops were offered each day.

Other events

- ◆ Presentation by Taylor Lockwood, photographer and author, of "Treasures from the Kingdom of Fungi" - slides of fungi taken throughout the world. Open to public.
- ◆ Conference dinner held on final night of conference.

Day 5

One further talk was given on problems encountered when describing new species.

Slides of possible additional Fungimap target species were shown.

Open Forum

An Open Forum followed morning tea at which the future of the Fungimap project was discussed. Six key challenges had been identified and delegates divided into groups to discuss each challenge.

- ◆ **Target species:** At present, there are 100 target species. Additional species were suggested to increase coverage of all groups of fungi, all geographic areas within Australia and rare and threatened species.
- ◆ **Managing data, volunteers and the network:** Networking with other Natural History groups is recommended. The frequency of the Newsletter was discussed.
- ◆ **Workshops and standardised techniques.**
- ◆ **Development of kits for members:** beginners and subsequent kits.
- ◆ **Funding and lobbying:** With a nation wide membership which is steadily increasing, funding is a critical issue. Though all Regional Co-ordinators and data collectors are volunteers, at least two paid positions are necessary: a general manager to coordinate Fungimap activities and publish the Newsletter and a database manager.
- ◆ **Fungimap for kids:** In school and out of school.

Feedback

Many of the delegates filled out feedback forms which asked for comments on the Conference and Fungimap in general. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The following were some of the comments.

- ◆ "The happy atmosphere and well run organisation"
- ◆ "The very relaxed, cheerful and friendly way in which the instructors interacted with us "learners"
- ◆ "The undisguised enthusiasm of professional and amateur registrants"
- ◆ "Everything – the first day set the stage, then the forays and workshops gave such a clear picture to my untutored eye that I felt I had learned a tremendous amount".

The future

The next National Conference was confirmed for Victoria, probably at Wilsons Promontory in May 2003, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Melbourne Herbarium. The next Fungimap Co-ordinators' Get Together will be held in South Australia in June 2002.

The conference was unanimously declared an outstanding success, and special thanks are due to Katie Syme, the team from the Denmark Environment Centre (Geoff Evans, Jessie MacIver & Dorothy Redreau) and Alex Syme who worked extremely hard to present a truly memorable event, and also to all the speakers and workshop and foray leaders.

NEWS FROM WA

By Katrina Syme, WA Regional Coordinator

- ◆ The Western Australian Naturalists' Group is coordinating a new Fungimap Group in Perth. They have already organised two fungi-based activities for next year:
 - **3rd May 2002** - UWA, Perth: Talk on fungi / Fungimap by Katrina Syme.
 - **1st – 3rd June 2002** (Foundation Day long weekend): Fungi surveys & workshops, talks and slides, led by K. Syme. We will stay at the old mill-town of Donnelly River, near the tall Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) & Blackbutt (*E. patens*) forests, north-west of Manjimup.

For further information, contact the WA Naturalists' Group, PO Box 8257, Perth Business Centre WA 6849.

E mail: [wanats@iinet.net.au](mailto:wانات@iinet.net.au)

- ◆ The Conference talks and Tom's summary of the open forum will be posted up on the Denmark Environment Centre's Web Site in October.

The address is: www.denmarkwa.net.au/~environ

- ◆ Contacts made during Conferences are one of the valuable outcomes of such events and I learned last week that author of WA's first field guide to fungi, Kevn Griffiths has been helping Jarred Pedro (a home-schooler) with advice on fungi projects.
- ◆ WA Fungimapper Maureen Jones has reached the second round of the NEITA Excellence in Teaching awards. The prize money is to be used for professional development and if she wins, Maureen will further develop her knowledge of fungi for use in school projects. She also intends to update the award-winning 'Sunset Over the Catchment' biodiversity / landcare board game developed with her students at Beachlands Primary School in Geraldton.

NEWS FROM TASMANIA

THE ADVENTURES OF DAVID AND GENEVIEVE

The "Mainlanders" may not be aware - but the three Tasmanian newspapers got it - David and Gen were recently "missing overnight" on a fungi expedition! I gather there were no mushrooms for light once the sun went down; obviously no *Omphalotus* around. They lit a fire for warmth (so they say)! A night without Gen's kids and with a fun gi - they were found by Police, before light, the next day heading towards the car. David told me it was a magic trip!

Di Williams

Missing walkers safe after night in forest

By Sue Bailey (The Mercury, Hobart, 2 July 2001)

Two missing bushwalkers were found safe and well yesterday after spending a night disoriented in thick forest in southern Tasmania. The couple are believed to have been from the University of Tasmania and were on a trip to gather plants. The couple, described by police as experienced field naturalists, were reported overdue in the Forestier Peninsula, near Eaglehawk Neck, about 3am yesterday.

Police search and rescue officers and forestry staff began a search in an area known as McGregors Peak, where the pair were last seen, at first light yesterday morning. Police search and rescue spokesman Tim McNamara said after searching both the track and fire trails the couple were found on Schofields Rd.

"They said they had become disoriented as to exactly what forestry road they were on", Constable McNamara said. "As evening closed in they settled down, lit a fire and remained until early morning at which time they began to walk out along the road and were met by police and forestry. Both were fit and well and needed no medical attention or other assistance."

Constable McNamara praised the couple for their sensible actions. "Both were experienced walkers, had adequate warm clothing and matches with which they lit a fire", he said. "Upon realising that they were lost they correctly stayed put overnight and retraced their steps the following morning."

THANK-YOU DAVID RATKOWSKY

As some of you will be aware, over the past couple of months David Ratkowsky has stepped down as Tasmanian Regional Coordinator, and has passed the reins to Sapphire McMullan-Fisher. On behalf of Fungimap, we extend our sincere gratitude to David and his partner Genevieve Gates, for the amazing levels of enthusiasm, dedication and knowledge they have brought to the Fungimap project over the years. In terms of sheer volume of records contributed, between the two of them they have consistently topped the list. They have been similarly generous with their fungi photographs. They both possess an in-depth knowledge of Tasmanian fungi and fungi sites, and were always willing to share this knowledge. Although we are sad to lose them from the Fungimap team, we are very glad to hear they plan to continue participating in the project!

In the words of Di Williams:

(I would like to) acknowledge both David and Genevieve's contribution and dedication to fungimap - I know how much I've used them and I'm only one person. They have and I know will continue to be there for the awareness of the public in terms of "TOADSTOOLS"!!

WELCOME SAPPHIRE

Sapphire has been involved with Fungimap for a number of years, and we are very excited to have her take on the role of Tasmanian Regional Coordinator. Tasmanian Fungimappers are encouraged to contact Sapphire for help with fungi IDs, and news of forthcoming forays and talks. Sapphire's biography appears on page 9.

NEWS FROM SA

By Pam Catcheside, SA Regional Coordinator

The fungal season in South Australia was late in starting this year. There were aggressive fruitings of the Yellow Stainer, *Agaricus xanthodermus*, in Parks and Gardens in early May. Massive clumps of tawny brown *Gymnopilus junonius* decorated the bases of eucalypts in the Adelaide Hills by mid May but on the plains there was little obvious fungal activity. Frustrating for fungal foray leaders and participants! However, towards the end of May, two specimens of the Stilt Puffball, *Battarraea stevenii*, appeared in the same place as in May 2000 in the Australian section of the Adelaide Botanic Garden – a definite bonus amongst the usual common Brick Caps, *Stropharia aurantiaca* and *Bolbitius titubans*, a smaller species of “Sunny-side-up” than Fungimap’s *B. vitellinus*.

Two trips to the Flinders Ranges in early June proved rather disappointing in comparison with trips at similar times in 1999 and 2000. In Wilpena Pound in June 1999 the white, glutinous agaric *Limacella pitereka* was abundant. In June 2000 *Dermocybe splendida* formed large patches of bronze-red caps and *Macrolepiota konradii* (Slender Parasols) covered considerable areas, its cream conical caps with their concentric rings of brown scales standing on slender stipes above the leaf litter. In June 2001 we found none of these species, though in August there were a few dried up remnants of the Slender Parasols and of *Dermocybe splendida*. It is interesting to note relative frequencies of species in different years: *Limacella pitereka* was recorded throughout the southern regions of the State in 1999 but in 2000 and 2001 it seemed uncommon.

Highlights of this collecting season have been finding the delicate *Mycena nargan* in Alligator Gorge, Mount Remarkable National Park. The slender stipes curled out from under a fallen log, carrying their white bespeckled black-grey cones. Another thrill, on an excursion with the Mount Gambier Field Naturalists, was finding the blue Pixies’ Parasol, *Mycena interrupta*, which is very uncommon in dry SA.

Sapphire McMullan-Fisher

Sapphire first became interested in fungi as a child visiting Zambia where during the wet season up to 30 edible species can be found. Little came of this interest in Australia until the end of her graduate degree at La Trobe University, where she got sidetracked from conservation genetics to the ecology of the macrofungi. Spending summer 1996 with a studentship at the Melbourne Herbarium, then continuing her renewed fascination she did an honours project with La Trobe University and the Melbourne Herbarium investigating the ecology of the macrofungi over time since fire in Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) forest.

She is now undertaking a PhD at the University of Tasmania, working on the congruence of the cryptogamic (macrofungi, bryophytes and macrolichens) community and the vascular plant communities.

Sapphire’s focus on the macrofungi is finding out what roles they play in ecosystems and ecosystem function. Her biggest concern is that macrofungi and other cryptic organisms will become extinct before they are ‘discovered’.

Fruit bodies of the Arched Earthstar, *Geastrum fornicatum*, seem to be always in deep dry leaf litter at the base of trees. Specimens at Danggali Conservation Park north of Renmark in the Murraylands were under wilgas (*Geijera parviflora*) and black-oak (*Casuarina cristata*), under eucalypts in the Gammon Ranges National Park (north east of the Flinders Ranges) and under *Acacia ligulata* in the Gawler Ranges (north of Eyre Peninsula).

The Ghost Fungus, *Omphalotus nidiformis*, seems to have a wide distribution throughout SA. It had previously been collected in the Mount Lofty Ranges around Adelaide, Mount Gambier in the South-east and on the Fleurieu Peninsula south of Adelaide. Since the Fungimap project it has been recorded in the dry parts of the Murraylands, the Flinders Ranges and in Lincoln National Park on the southern tip of Eyre Peninsula.

Before and during the fungal season I have given a number of talks and workshops and it has been heartening to see the amount of interest in the fungi. I ran agaric identification workshops at the Plant Biodiversity Centre and gave talks and led forays for local (Adelaide) Naturalists and Botanic Gardens’ Friends and staff. Talks and short forays in the Adelaide Botanic Garden for schoolchildren were very rewarding: it is lovely to watch the excitement with which the children alight on a Straw Mushroom (*Volvariella speciosa*) or the smelly Anemone Fungus, *Aseroe rubra*. Further afield, it was a pleasure to talk to the friends of Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta and go round the magnificent garden there. I enjoyed being with the Mount Gambier Field Naturalists again. I had given a talk and led an excursion in 2000 and it was nice to be asked back. Members of the Friends of Parks on lower Eyre Peninsula are setting up regional herbaria. These will include fungi. So there were lots of questions, especially during the excursion to Lincoln National Park. Hopefully, this will be the first of many trips to Port Lincoln.

Because of the interest in fungi and Fungimap in SA, I decided to set up a Fungal Studies Group. We were very lucky to have Teresa Lebel talk to us on truffles at our inaugural meeting in July. She and Jenny Tonkin were visiting Adelaide on their way back to Melbourne from the Fungimap conference in WA. The Fungal Studies Group is a Club of the Field Naturalists Society of SA. We shall have excursions on the second Saturday of each month from April to September and meetings at the Plant Biodiversity Centre on second Tuesdays from March to October. All Fungimappers are welcome.

The fungal season is now, in mid-September, drawing to a close. We have had our last official fungal foray. The wonderful Fungimap Conference seems long ago. As usual, I look back over the season and thank Tom for Fungimap. As well as the excitement of the hunt for target species there is the bonus of meeting so many interesting and fun people. As Fungimap co-ordinator for SA I feel privileged to have the opportunity to help others enjoy fungi.

Pam had an interesting article on *Geastrum fornicatum* published in the SA Naturalist in May 2001.

FUNGI IN WALPOLE, SW OF SOUTHERN WA

By Pat Grey, October 2001

How lucky can you be? Charlotte Jolley found 8 target species in her backyard. Charlotte lives in Gardner Road just outside Walpole on the SW coast of Southern WA, and her garden includes a segment of wet sclerophyll Tingle forest with a lot of Bulloak understorey.

Only three of the Fungimap target species were seen as a single specimen. *Calostoma fuscum* was found in soil at the edge of a Kangaroo track in the forest; the other two, *Oudemansiella radicata* and *Marasmius elegans*, were growing in shallow Allocasuarina needles in a small Tingle forest clearing.

The other 5 were fairly numerous such as the beautiful tall blue *Cortinarius rotundisporus*, found in groups growing in litter near Eucalypts. Along the mown track at the edge of the forest there were small *Amanita xanthocephalas*. They seem a lot shorter with smaller caps than I have seen in the Eastern states. Rows of bright orange fans of *Anthracocephillum archeri* were scattered throughout the vegetation - on dead bracken twigs, dead Bulloak branches and on other dead wood. They literally glow in the dim light of the forest. They seem to be a deeper orange than the ones I have seen in the eastern states. *Stereum hirsutum* also shone out, with zones of brown edged with lustrous yellow, complimented by the yellow/orange smooth undersurface. On a large fallen trunk were several brackets of Curry Punks, white on top with a brilliant orange undersurface, that oozed orange liquid in the rain, and, of course, it smelt strongly of curry.

Those were obviously not the only ones to be seen. In the forest litter, brilliant brick red *Cortinarius* spp. were everywhere. The gills are a particularly luminous brick red, very much like *Dermocybe splendida*, but with pale orange/red mycelium at the base of the stem, not yellow. Deeper within the forest the very pale apricot caps of *Amanita ochrophylloides* pushed up through the litter. They seem a much paler apricot colour than those I have seen in Victoria,

but they have the very bulbous stem and the skirt-like ring at the top of the stem.

As Charlotte lead us along the track, hidden in the litter and mossy ground were coral fungi - red and yellow/orange Fire Tongues, *Clavulinopsis miniata* and *C. amoena*, fawn and yellow branching corals, and on wood *Clavicornia* aff. *piperata*, noted for its peppery taste. Just by the back gate around the base of a eucalypt, rose pink *Russula persanguinea* with perfect white gills and stem carpet the ground, as do the pink Chanterelles, and the apricot-capped *Hydnum repandum*. Dotted around, usually singly are *Lactarius eucalypti* - the only native *Lactarius* sp. found in WA. In the damper mossy areas red *Hygrocybe* sp., with a yellow edge to the cap abound. There was also the small campanulate hairy-capped *Inocybe* sp. that had been pointed out by Neil Bougher on a Fungimap Conference foray - which, in fact, may be a *Cortinarius* sp.! Many of the species were found in Bougher and Syme 1988, 'Fungi of Southern Australia'.

Of course, these are just the few that I could recognise - the innumerable LBM's (little brown mushrooms) were mostly unknown to me, but the Little Pin, *Rickenella fibula*, was picked out in the moss. This short morning walk on the 1st July 2001 was a mycological delight.

Target species list:

1st - 2nd July 2001

<i>Amanita xanthocephala</i>	<i>Omphalina chromacea</i>
<i>Anthracocephillum archeri</i>	<i>Oudemansiella radicata</i>
<i>Calostoma fuscum</i>	<i>Piptoporus australiensis</i>
<i>Cortinarius rotundisporus</i>	<i>Podoserpula pusio</i>
<i>Dermocybe splendida</i>	<i>Poronia erici</i>
<i>Marasmius elegans</i>	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>
<i>Mucronella pendula</i>	<i>Tubaria rufofulva</i>

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

By Taylor Lockwood, April 2001

Taylor recalls his eventful presentation at the CD-ROM launch...

I walked in to the room where the Fungimap CD launch was going to be held. Someone had brought the projector (spare bulb: yes; auto focus: yes; remote control: yes; works with the new carousels I just bought: yes, yes, yes) and sets it up for me. Someone else arrives with a large portable stereo with cassette and a CD player. I take it up to the front of the room and after queuing up the music on the cassette and checking the sound level, I commented to the people helping me "This has got to be the fastest set-up ever!". So, we went to dinner. Murphy smiled.

This was a special night. The room started filling up early. By the time the program started, it was packed and after the intros and awards and demo of the new CD from Ian's laptop and

digital projector, I was the special guest with my special show. I get up front to give a quick introduction about what they will see and hear, why I am doing it all, and I press the play button and off we go.

The music starts up, the screen lights up and within about fifteen seconds the stereo starts sounding like it's dying a slow death; within thirty seconds I stop the show. (Now some of you may know that I have a reputation for insisting on some "quiet time" before my show so I can do a sound check, wire check, lights check, head check, etc., etc. This is why.) Lights come on. A couple of people gather with me to try to figure out the problem and solution and I realise that I had brought a backup CD with me that night. I go and get it (the audience is still patiently waiting; they've tasted the fruit and they want it all!) and I put the CD into the player and nothing. It doesn't work at all. Now I notice that the handle is gone, other buttons don't work and this thing is trashed!

(continued on page 11)

Comparison of *Hygrocybe cheelii* and *Hygrocybe reesiaie*

By David Ratkowsky & Genevieve Gates

The main distinguishing feature of the two species is the colour of the pileus. In *Hygrocybe cheelii*, the colour is a pinkish or reddish mauve-lilac [Methuen 12C5], whereas in *Hygrocybe reesiaie*, it is more a greyish or buff lilac.



Hygrocybe cheelii

Hygrocybe cheelii

Pileus bright pinkish mauve or lilac, tending to remain unchanged with drying, margin sometimes a little crenulate or slightly plicate when immature. Stipe deep pink at top, yellow at the base. Habit slenderer than that of *H. reesiaie*. Lamellae white.



Hygrocybe cheelii

Hygrocybe reesiaie

Pileus lilac to lilac-grey, greyish-violet, drying to a lilac-tinted buff, margins even, neither crenulate nor plicate. Stipe and lamellae concolorous with pileus, although the base of the stipe in mature specimens may become off-white. Habit generally more cantharelloid or "chubbier" than *H. cheelii* in young fruit bodies.



Hygrocybe reesiaie

Common characteristics of the two species:

- 1) Pileus convex, smooth, dry.
- 2) Lamellae deeply decurrent, distant, thick.
- 3) Stipe cylindrical, dry, smooth.

The show must go on (continued from page 10)

What to do? Someone says "put it in the laptop". So Ian puts it in the laptop and on comes the Beach Boys "I get around" from last tour's "Endless Foray". Fortunately, he has the play, stop, fast forward, etc. controls on screen so I take the mouse and queue it up to the proper track. That's fine but we're dealing with two 1 inch speakers and a packed house. I notice the antiquated speakers on the side walls and within seconds someone pulls out a wireless lavalier mike, pugs it in and I put it in front of the laptop. Voila! Music!

And just when you thought it was safe... Heeere's Murphy! I'm barely feeling comfortable when the microphone, P.A., or something starts fading, scratching, dying, and it's back to the front to try again. This time I'm still clicking slides as Tom (Dr. May) takes the microphone transmitter and, fighting fire with fire, drops it on the floor and it starts working again! This time I put it in front of the laptop close enough to fill the room with music and within a few slides I'm back to my place in the show.

Now, all this time I've been dealing with one of those infrared remotes that doesn't work very well so I decided that I should wend my way through legs, chairs, and bodies back to the projector and use that old fashioned forward button (that works!). As soon as I got there I realised that I was only two slides away from another potential disaster; the end of the first carousel (I normally use one 140; I had to split into two 80s). However, because of the remote problems, I was there and switched them smoothly and after that little serendipitous triumph (Murphy frowns and goes home), the show continued to the end with lots of applause, talk, and enthusiasm for mushrooms!

Despite the problems, Taylor's presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Some Fungimappers were treated to a second presentation at the conference at Denmark, which was also very well received. A selection of Taylor's magnificent photographs are available on his website, <http://www.fungiphoto.com>.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Place	Contact
Western Australian Naturalists' Group - Fungimap Group	Friday 3rd May 2002	University of WA, Perth	WA Naturalists wanats@iinet.net.au
WA Naturalists' Group - Fungimap Group Foundation Day long weekend: surveys and workshops led by K. Syme	Saturday 1 st June - Monday 3 rd June 2002	Donnelley River, WA (north-west of Manjimup)	WA Naturalists wanats@iinet.net.au

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