



Australasian Mycological Society

Newsletter 2

A big thank you to all contributors to our latest edition of the newsletter. In this issue we have several exciting Australian mycology projects. Both Fungimap and the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi project are engaging the broader community, spreading the word about how remarkable fungi are, while also achieving solid scientific and conservation outcomes. We look forward to hearing more about the progress of these projects in future issues. Are you looking for new resources to engage students, naturalists or the general public? Look no further. The Forgotten Flora project has developed some exciting new educational resources. Check out the preview in this newsletter. We also welcome Dr Jose Liberato to BRIP. Dr Liberato is a visiting post doc, working on powdery mildews.

A special thanks for the warm thank you letters and emails following the publication of our first newsletter. It seems we are achieving our goal of enhancing communication between Australasian mycologists. You can help, by submitting mycology news articles, reviews, letters, useful field and lab techniques, interesting sightings, poems, etc. to the next issue.

News from Fungimap

Fungimap started around 1995 as a mapping scheme for selected target species of Australian macrofungi. The scheme has been supported by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. There is a Fungimap website (<http://fungimap.rbg.vic.gov.au/>), and the *Fungimap Newsletter* is currently distributed to numerous people around Australia. A CD-ROM guide to the target species was produced in 2001, and a book guide will be published in 2005.

The 100 Fungimap targets have been chosen to represent species (or groups of closely related species) that are relatively easy to recognise in the field. Most species are common and widespread, but some are rare. Data on rare species assists assessment of conservation status. About 20,000 records have been accumulated in the Fungimap database, but additional records are always welcome.

As well as co-ordinating mapping activities, Fungimap has grown to become a network linking

people with an interest in fungi in the field, and linking the growing number of organisations around Australia with a focus on fungi in the field. There are now regional fungi groups in most States, with the most recent addition being the Fungi Group of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. The level of interest in fungi around Australia can be gauged from the calendar of events in each Fungimap Newsletter, which sometimes stretches to several pages.

The FNCV and RBG Melbourne have provided great support for Fungimap, but the scheme has now outgrown the capacity of these organisations to cover the various administrative and financial requirements (especially the complexity of running parallel accounts for Fungimap at the two organisations). There is also the need for liability insurance and to establish official status in order to be able to apply for grants and to allow tax deductible donations. Fungimap will therefore become an incorporated organisation in 2005. The new organisation will be launched at the third national Fungimap Conference (FUNGIMAP III - History, Ecology and Conservation) to be held at Gowrie Park, Tasmania, 29 April - 3 May 2005.

Close links will be maintained with the Australasian Mycological Society. There will be regular updates about Fungimap in the AMS Newsletter and the 8th Australasian Mycological Society Conference is being held jointly with FUNGIMAP III in Tasmania in 2005.

Contacting Fungimap

Fungimap
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Private Bag 2000
South Yarra, Victoria, 3141
fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au

FUNGIMAP III - History, Ecology and Conservation

3rd National Fungimap Conference
Gowrie Park, Tasmania, 29 April - 3 May 2005
There will be a day of talks, followed by three days of forays and workshops, including a children's day and a fungi art exhibition. For enquiries and bookings please see <http://fungimap.rbg.vic.gov.au/>, or contact Fungimap at the address above.

Selected articles from recent issues of the *Fungimap Newsletter*

Available at

<http://fungimap.rbg.vic.gov.au/fmn/fmn.html>

20: 6-11. 'Flavours of Fungimap - Colour Supplement'. [Colour illustrations of 26 rare or interesting macrofungi.]

21: 4-5. 'Surveys for macrofungi: plots and transects' by Richie Robinson.

21: 8-9. 'Fungimap species in Flinders Chase National Park' by Pam Catcheside.

22: 5-6. Reviews of *An introduction to fungi on wood in Queensland* by Ian Hood and *The genus Mycena in south-eastern Australia* by Cheryl Grgurinovic.

22: 11. 'Colour references for description of fungi' by Robert Hancock [CD-ROM available of Munsell and Ridgway colours applicable to fungi.]

23: 3. Review of *A field guide to the fungi of Australia* by Tony Young.

23: 4-6,9-10. 'Fungimap colour supplement - II'. [Four pages of colour illustrations of rare, interesting and beautiful macrofungi.]

*Tom May (Fungimap Convenor)
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne*



**Perth
Urban
Bushland
Fungi**

Perth Urban Bushland

Fungi (PUBF) is a collaborative project begun in 2004 between the Urban Bushland Council and

the WA Naturalists' Club in conjunction with the WA Herbarium and supported by Lotterywest. Over the past 10 years, many well attended fungi forays and workshops have been held in urban bushlands of Perth. These events have

highlighted growing requests by community and professional land managers to address the generally low level of awareness and knowledge about fungi. The PUBF Project was conceived to address this gap and aims to improve awareness and knowledge so that fungi become an integral part of long-term urban bushland management.

Perth's urban bushlands lie within one of the world's 32 plant biodiversity hotspots for conservation priority. The bushlands are an important natural refuge for many fungi, which play a crucial but little understood role and underpin the long-term health and resilience of the bushlands. Very little is known about our local fungi. They play an

important part in maintaining the health of our bushland and have unique associations with Australian native plants and animals. Knowledge of the fungi and other cryptic organisms that help keep the region's plants healthy is essential for effective conservation management of this hotspot region.



PUBF Fungi walk at Shenton Bushland, June 2004.

Photo by John Weaver

Activities of the PUBF project include:

- ❑ Working with local community groups to collect data on fungi and build inventories of fungi for Perth bushlands, in many cases for the first time.
- ❑ Teaching community group members to identify fungi and conduct fungi surveys.
- ❑ Increasing community skills and knowledge of fungi in bushland via PUBF fungi kits and posters, forays, biological surveys, workshops, university extension courses, feedback packages, and presentations to bush care groups.
- ❑ Fostering a volunteer fungi workforce in the field, laboratory and herbarium.
- ❑ Building an accurately identified reference collection of fungi at the WA Herbarium accompanied by high quality data.
- ❑ Introducing Local Governments to fungi through the Environmental Officers Network and the Perth Biodiversity Project.
- ❑ Integrating fungi into biodiversity management strategies for the Perth Region such as negotiating fungi as performance criteria for bushland Environmental Management Plans.
- ❑ Working closely with the Bush Forever and Perth Biodiversity Projects to gather data of significant use to the management and conservation of the Perth metropolitan region bushlands.



PUBF Volunteer John Weaver speaking at the Baldvis Fungi workshop
Photo by Roz Hart

The WA Herbarium has given enormous support to the Project including providing infrastructure for the PUBF team. Our enthusiastic brigade of volunteers are based at the Herbarium when they are not out in the field collecting fungi.

The PUBF Team : Neale Bougher, Mycologist, Roz Hart, Community Education Officer and Jac Keelan-Wake, Project Support Officer.

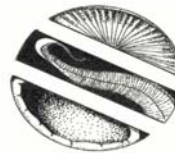
Visiting scientist at BRIP



Dr José R. Liberato is a Brazilian plant pathologist and mycologist who will pursue his research interests on the taxonomy of powdery mildews (Erysiphales) in Australia as a visiting postdoctoral until January 2006.

Dr Liberato is based at the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries' Plant Pathology Herbarium (BRIP) in Indooroopilly. He has been awarded a grant from CAPES, a foundation within the Ministry of Education in Brazil. He has worked with papaya and passionfruit diseases and developed colour digital image processing software (QUANT) for quantifying disease intensity. Now, he is commencing a world revision of the powdery mildews on pawpaws using traditional taxonomy and the classification of spore shapes using QUANT.

Dr Liberato is keen to obtain fresh specimens of powdery mildews on pawpaws from Australia. Specimens on tropical fruits and uncommon hosts are welcome too. He can be contacted on jose.liberato@dpi.qld.gov.au for information on how and where specimens can be sent.



**Forgotten
Flora**



Forgotten Flora Project

Australia's *Forgotten Flora* encompasses the non-vascular plants (bryophytes: liverworts, hornworts, mosses), lichens and fungi. They provide vital decomposition services without which many ecosystems would collapse, are food and shelter for many indigenous animals and insects, are important parts of nutrient and energy cycles, and help protect soils from water and wind erosion as well as controlling run-off of rainfall. The *Forgotten Flora* can be found in most habitats in Australia, are extremely diverse, and impact on our own lives in many ways. The presence of a diverse array of these organisms is a sign of a healthy ecosystem, and their absence can, in some cases, be used to indicate the effects of pollution or presence of unhealthy ecosystems.

Resources comprise 3 educational CDs (bryophytes, fungi and lichens), and 10 posters. Each partially interactive CD is in five parts and expands on the basic information in the poster series. Parts 1 and 2 provide general background information on bryophytes, fungi or lichens and incorporate figures and/or photographs that can be used in presentations or many of the activities. Part 3 outlines practical information on how to study the group. Part 4 consists of suggested activities and worksheets. Part 5 of the kit consists of an extensive list of resources (books and websites), suggested field sites and a glossary.

Website:

http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/plant_science/publications/forgotten_flora

Contact: forgottenflora@rbg.vic.gov.au

*Josephine Milne & Teresa Lebel
 Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne*

Letter to the Editor

Congratulations on the Newsletter. It is a welcome addition to shared information and interaction within the mycological community in Australia!

I thought you might like to know I received a phone call regarding my enquiry about the drawing attachment (tube) in the last Newsletter. I was advised to use one that is specific to the brand of microscope being used and that the Olympus one

had a limited size field! I was also asked to pass on any comments I received regarding Ainsworth & Bisby's *Dictionary of Fungi* as this person was also interested to know what the general view was on this publication!

Another two brief snippets: I plan to be doing some surveys and monitoring of fungi on a few sites on the Central NSW Coast. So if there are any genera/species anyone is specifically interested in and they want to be notified of any that are found let me know and I can keep them informed. Also in relation to this work, any offers or suggestions for help or confirmation of identification with some of the more difficult species?!!!

Pam O'Sullivan
RMB 1860 Ourimbah Creek Rd
PALM GROVE NSW 2258
Ph: 02 4362 1543
e-mail: jimos@ozemail.com.au

Countdown to IMC8

Planning for the IMC8 is accelerating. Ceri recently accompanied our PCO, Lesley Woods on a site visit of the Cairns Convention Centre (which is currently being refurbished), as well as met with representatives of the Cairns Convention Bureau and inspected various accommodation providers in Cairns.

The scientific program is evolving rapidly, with a broad range of symposia on offer thanks to the incredible work of our president, Wieland Meyer and his national and international team of scientific program organisers.

We now have letters of invitation and welcome to IMC8 from the Australian Prime Minister, the Honourable John Howard MP, and the Premier of Queensland, the Honourable Peter Beattie MP.

Cheryl Grgurinovic, Paul Gadek and Ceri have been hard at work on the social program. It is planned to include at least one favourite activity from the previous congress, the "Wines of the World" evening, in which each delegate contributes a bottle of wine from their region of the world for 'tasting and judging.' Prizes go to the 'best and worst wine of the world.'

Are you interested in arranging or contributing to a workshop at IMC8. If so, you can email Roger Shivas, our Workshop Committee co-ordinator (Roger.Shivas@dpi.qld.gov.au). Stay tuned for further updates as the scientific and social program develop. Website www.sapmea.asn.au/imc8

HAIKUS

The first dry day

After a week of constant rain:

Let's go mushrooming!

Driving to Orange,

The numerous pine forests

Delay my journey.

A sudden downpour:

Sheltering under pine trees

Wood blewits galore!

Percy Wong

Calendar of events

Joint Fungimap and AMS Conference and Foray

April 28-May 2, 2005, Gowrie Park, Mt. Roland, Tasmania. Contact Fungimap co-ordinator Cassia Read (03) 9252 2374 or check out the AMS website.

6th International Congress on Cryptococcus and Cryptococcus

June 24-28, 2005, Boston, USA

www.bu.edu.cme/iccc.html

Mycological Society of America Annual Meeting (with the Mycological Society of Japan)

July 30-August 5, 2005, Hilo, Hawaii

<http://msafungi.org>

15th Australasian Plant Pathology Conference

September 26-29, 2005, Geelong, Victoria, Australia

www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au

8th International Mycological Conference

August 20-26, 2006, Cairns, Queensland, Australia

www.sapmea.asn.au/imc8

Items for inclusion in the AMS newsletter should be sent to Ceri Pearce, email ceri.pearce@dpi.qld.gov.au , post to C. Pearce, PO Box 652, Cairns, 4870 Qld, Australia, or fax (07) 40355474
--