

# Fungi

Wungong Research Seminar May 2007

Dr Neale Bougner



Photo by Neale L. Bougner

# 3F's Conservation and Management

## FLORA FAUNA & FUNGI

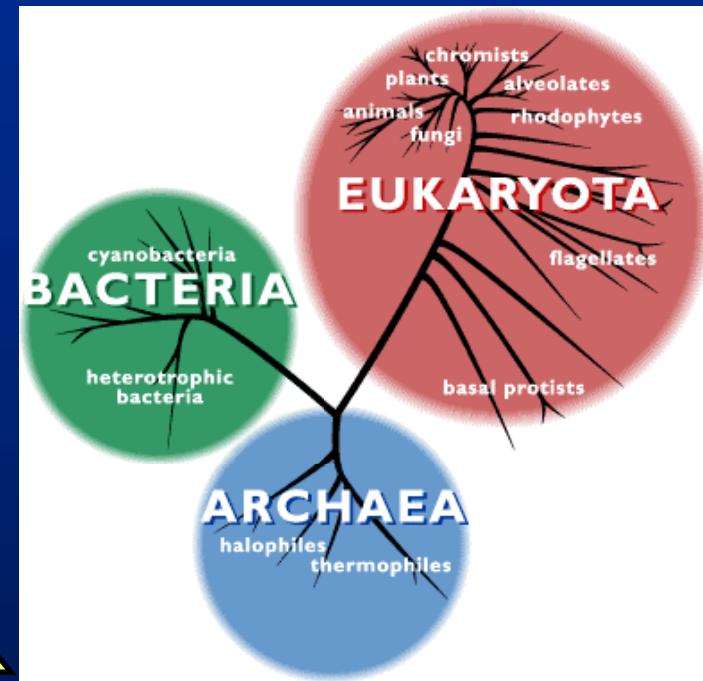
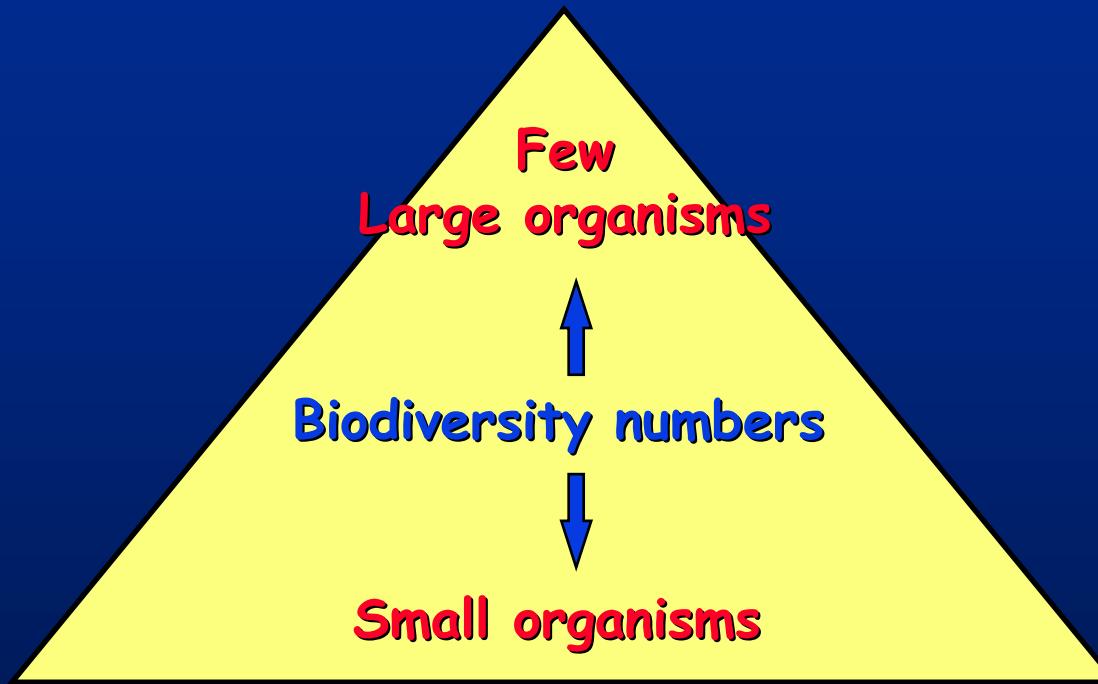
- Why Fungi?

- ✓ **Biodiversity:** numbers far outweigh plants
- ✓ **Functions:** healthy bush = many fungi
- ✓ **Sensitive to change:** indicators for monitoring
- ✓ **Public profile:** community participation & education - PUBF

- Fungi in Wungong

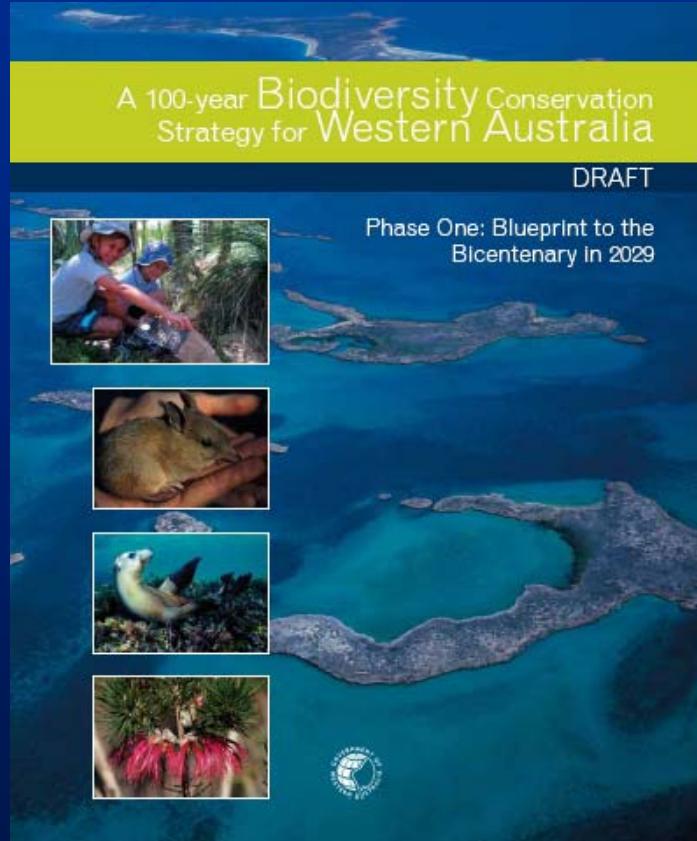
Dr Neale Bougner

# Fungi



Fungi are not mysterious plants  
Own Kingdom - *closer to animals than plants*

# Fungi Biodiversity



Many times more  
fungi than plants



APPENDIX 1: Summary of WA taxa and level of endemism

	Approximate number of described taxa in WA	Estimated total number of taxa in WA	% described taxa that are endemic to WA
<b>ANIMALS</b>			
Mammals	250	1000	50%
Birds	400	1000	40%
Reptiles	100	200	50%
Fish	1000	2000	50%
Insects	10000	20000	50%
Spiders	1000	2000	50%
Amphibians	100	200	50%
Crustaceans	1000	2000	50%
Other invertebrates	10000	20000	50%
<b>PLANTS</b>			
Vascular	11,500	14,000	Northern – 14% Eremaean – 50% South-West – 79% Whole of WA – 62% Non-vascular
Algae (freshwater and marine)	2633	9000	Freshwater – approximately 50% Marine – low, many species shared with other temperate or tropical areas
Mosses	353	400	unknown
<b>FUNGI</b>			
	2,609	140,000	Unknown for whole kingdom but 10.6% for basidiomycete macrofungi approximately 10%
Lichens	621	700	

# Function: Fungi crucial for healthy bushlands

" Fungal networks bind soil, plants and animals into a healthy cohesive system "

## NUTRIENT CYCLING & SOIL HEALTH

- decompose leaf litter & woody debris
- bind & improve soil organic & structure
- transport nutrients in soil



## PARTNERSHIPS

- food for most plants (mycorrhiza)
- food for many animals

Fruit body



Mycelium

BBC HOMEPAGE | WORLD SERVICE | EDUCATION  
**BBC NEWS**  
You are in: World: Asia-Pacific  
Front Page World Sunday, 22 April, 2001, 10:03 GMT 11:03 UK  
Gourmet kangaroos face extinction

Africa Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent

Letter From America The bettong is a nocturnal animal  
UK A species of Australian kangaroo is in danger of extinction because of its taste for fine food.  
Business  
Sci/Tech  
Health  
Education  
Entertainment  
Talking Point  
In Depth

The bettong is a nocturnal animal  
A species of Australian kangaroo is in danger of extinction because of its taste for fine food.  
Australian wildlife officials said the small northern bettong could be wiped out because it cannot get enough of its favourite food - truffles.

Springtails ...

Woylies,  
Bandicoots ...

# Healthy Bush = Many Fungi



## Healthy bush

- 100's of native fungi per hectare.
- Healthy ecosystem processes.



## Degraded Bush

- Fewer fungi.
- Poor ecosystem processes.



## Farmland/Housing

- Few or no fungi !
- Fertility artificially supported.

# Fungi are sensitive indicators of changes

Fungi susceptible as they are mostly in upper soil

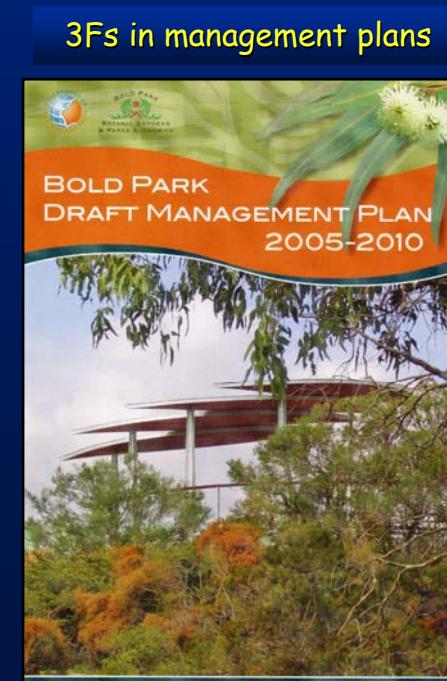
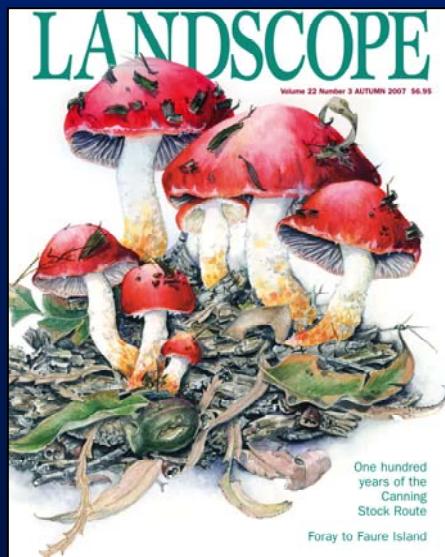
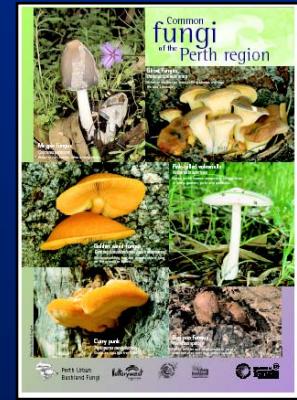
- Fire
- Log/ stump removal
- Soil & litter compaction, erosion
- Loss of native plants & animals

Fire responsive fungus



# Fungi Public Profile Increasing

- Heightened requirement for 3F conservation & management
- Legislative, Corporate, Community
- Demand for information increasing
- Community, local govt. undertaking fungi surveys
- PUBF



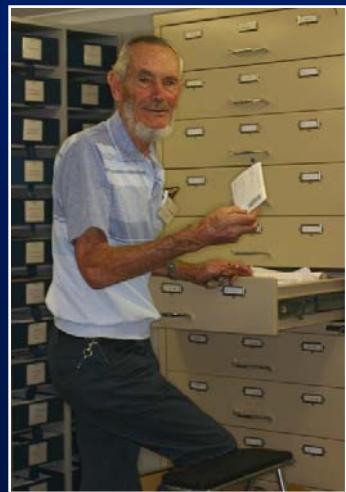
# Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project



- Raise awareness about fungi and their roles
- Increase community skills - surveys & IDs
- Build baseline scientific data, including a permanent ref collection
- Encourage integration in management of biodiversity & bushlands

# PUBF Community

- Over 3,000 participants
- Over 50 field Events
- Trained Fungi Leaders
- Numerous courses & talks
- Raised awareness & knowledge
- Volunteer fungi workforce



# PUBF Georeferencing System

## for collecting, storing and retrieving fungi data



GPS track  
recorded for  
each group of  
people



Georeferenced  
photographs  
taken of each  
specimen



# Fungi Photos and Data linked to Mapped Track



***Ramaria gracilis* -Coral Fungus**

Photographer, Louise Little

In Jarrah, Sheoak, *Banksia* woodland, in litter beneath Jarrah

Latitude: -31° 52' 51.35" Longitude: 115° 51' 27.85"

Date: 24 Jul 2004

Image CW16\_28LL7815



***Dacrymyces* sp. -Jelly fungus**

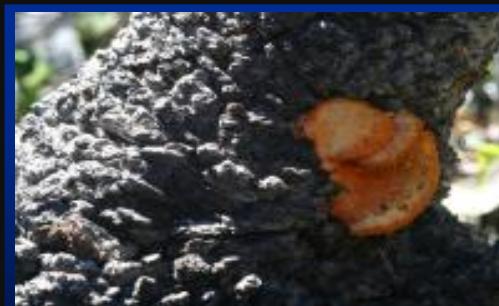
Photographer, Louise Little

On Dead Banksia wood

Latitude: -31° 52' 50.95" Longitude: 115° 51' 27.50"

Date: 24 Jul 2004

Image CW16\_28LL7817



***Pycnoporus coccineus* -Scarlet Bracket Fungus**

Photographer Louise Little

On Dead *Banksia* wood

Latitude: -31° 52' 50.66" Longitude: 115° 51' 27.08"

Date: 24 Jul 2004

Image CW16\_28LL7820

# PUBF Feedback Packages to Community Groups

Inventory of Fungi. Map with sampling route.

Fungi & people photos. Recommendations for management.

**Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project**  
**Fungi Reports 2006**



**Introduction**

**Fungi Survey Reports in this Volume** (each report also published individually)

- Koondoola Regional Park
- Whiteman Park Bushland
- Trigg Bushland
- Modong Nature Reserve
- Maida Vale Reserve
- Queens Park Bushland

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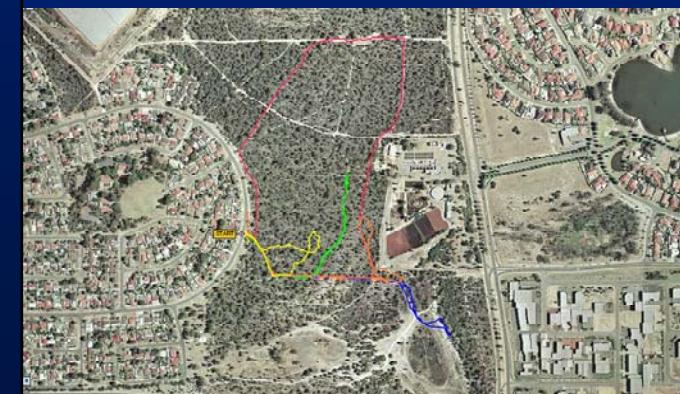
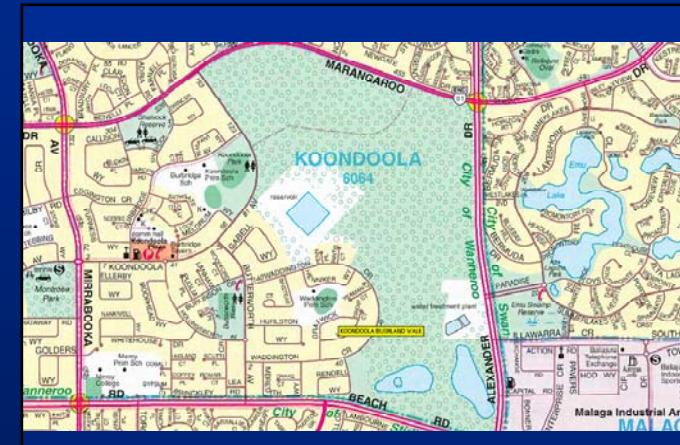
Photos and field assistance by PUBF Leaders and participants

© October 2006

**Other 2006 PUBF Fungi Survey Reports** (published separately to this volume)

- Lowlands Bushland
- Workshops for Local Government Officers (each report published individually)
  - North Lake Bushland
  - Whiteman Park Bushland
- Regional Parks Surveys (each report also published individually)
  - Brownman Swamp Bushland in Beeliar Regional Park
  - Paganoni Bushland in Rockingham Lakes Regional Park
  - Yellagonga Regional Park
- WA Naturalists' Club Fungi weekend, Roleystone

For further information about the Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project, see the project website at [www.fungiperth.org.au](http://www.fungiperth.org.au)

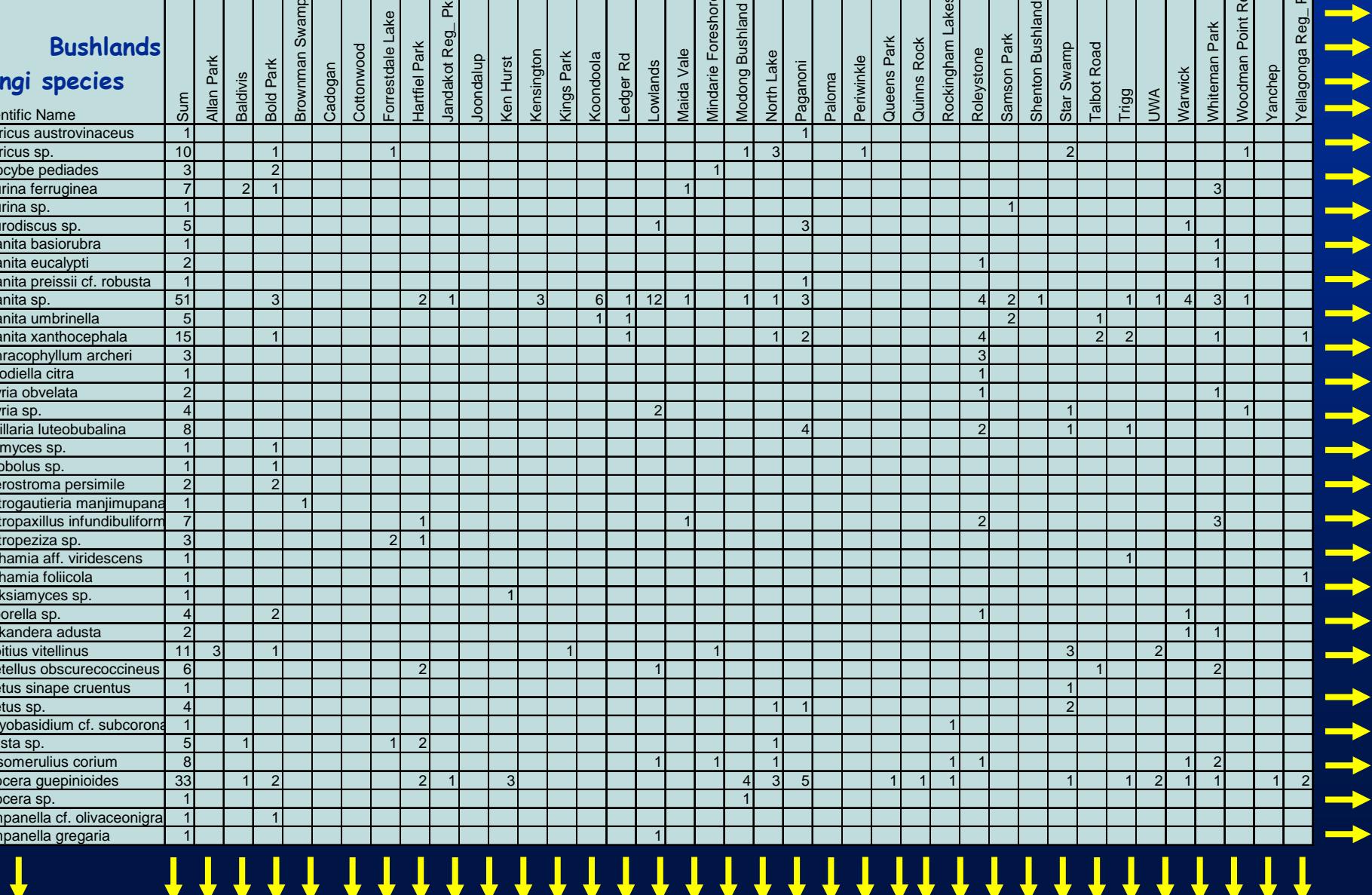


# PUBF Science

- Recorded about 3,000 fungi from 38 bushlands.
- Foundation inventories for 24 bushlands
- New records for Australia & WA
- New species to Science
- Fungi types: rare, weed, gondwanan ...
- Permanent ref vouchers & dataset: bolstered at WA Herbarium
- Data in Swan Bioplan icon bushland ref files



# Fungi Data Matrix for Perth Region



# Web Site - launched by Minister in 2005 [www.fungiperth.org.au](http://www.fungiperth.org.au)



Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Website - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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

Canon Easy-WebPrint Print High Speed Print Preview Options

Search x

New Next Custom

Choose a category for your search:

Find a Web page  
 Find a map  
 Look up a word  
 Previous searches

Find a Web page containing:

Brought to you by ninemsn search

Search for other items:  
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 Perth Urban Bushland Fungi  
Understanding and protecting our fabulous fungi

Home News Item Field Book Site Map Events2005 About PUBF Participation  
Bushland Activities Fungi of the Month Learning about fungi About the Project Other Resources

Welcome to the PUBF Website

Understanding and protecting our fabulous fungi!

Raising awareness and improving knowledge of fungi for bushland management in the Perth Region, south-west Australia.

The Project

Perth Urban Bushland Fungi (PUBF) is a collaborative project between the Urban Bushland Council and the WA Naturalists' Club in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australian Herbarium. The project began



The Fungi

Find all you need to know about fungi in the Perth Region - What to look for and how to find fungi. Why understanding and recognising fungi is important to protecting our remaining bushland. Why fungi can make a difference to the health of the bush and what you can do to make a difference!

Internet

# Perth Region Fungi Field Book

Self-managed format. Expanding.

## Perth Urban Bushland Fungi A Self-Managed Field Book

Perth Urban Bushland Fungi  
Author: Neale L. Bouger  
Design: John R Weaver  
For support:  
Mobile: 0427 200841  
Email: pubf@inet.net.au  
<http://www.fungiperth.org.au>

### Available Free:

From the PUBF website at:  
<http://www.fungiperth.org.au>

Navigate to 'fieldbook';  
inspect the catalogue; download  
individual pages or the entire book in  
one, simple to use, PDF.



Check out what's  
Inside!

#### Contents

Acknowledgments  
Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Fieldbook  
Other Fungi in the Perth Region  
Zones, Conservation  
Visual Index - Ascomycetes  
Visual Index - Basidiomycetes  
Visual Index - Slime Molds

#### Ascomycetes

Cup and Disc Fungi  
Earth Ticks & Molds  
Penicillia & Mucorales Fungi  
Various Ascomycetes  
Tulip Fungi

#### Basidiomycetes

Tulip Fungi  
Mycetophytes & Laccariales with Gills  
Sclerodites - Trichy Mycorrhizas  
Pleurotoids with Pico  
Auriculars, Cortinarius, Sclerodices  
Cinnamomeals & Doma Nests  
Gord & Cane Fungi  
Stacles & Shelf Fungi &  
Tricholomataceous with Pores  
Resinopines - Sun, Dust  
and Plant Fungi  
Tremellid Fungi  
Inky & Ear Fungi  
Various Basidiomycetes

#### Slime Molds

Unaligned - Basic Index  
Glossary & Species Index  
Checklist

[www.fungiperth.org.au](http://www.fungiperth.org.au)

Details ➔

Essential  
guide to fungi  
In the field

Basidiomycetes (Coral & Club Fungus)

M-2



### Fairy Clubs

*Macrotyphula juncea*

On wood twigs and leaves. Decomposer.

- Upright, slender, unbranched, bendable.
- Usually 15-50 mm tall x 1.5 mm wide.
- Stem slightly darker and thinner than fertile head.
- Spore print white.

#### Notes

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[www.fungiperth.org.au](http://www.fungiperth.org.au)

Basidiomycetes (Mushrooms & Toadstools with Gills)

J-34



### Archer's Cortinari

*Cortinarius archeri*

In litter. Mycorrhizal.

- Cap up to 100mm wide, violet.
- Cap and stem viscid when young.
- Stem with violet membrane-like veil, stained rusty due to spores.
- Spore print rusty brown.

#### Notes

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# Fungi in Wungong Catchment

Proposal



## Aims

Apply PUBF model & work in partnership with the community  
to:

1. Contribute scientific data for benchmarking and monitoring fungi biodiversity.
2. Foster public community participation and education.

## How?

- Surveys to supplement Forestcheck
- Public workshops



**3F's Conservation  
and Management  
FLORA FAUNA & FUNGI**