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Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Russula clelandii

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Russula clelandii is found throughout southern and eastern Australia. In the southwest it's a common species in jarrah forest and woodlands, fruiting on the ground amongst leaf litter in early autumn.

When fully developed caps are up to 7cm diameter, dome-shaped at first then expand to become flat with a depressed centre. Colour may vary from scarlet red to purple red but generally fades with age, especially near the margin. Gills are very neat, pure white, but then become yellowish cream as they mature. Stems may be up to 7cm tall, white with a distinctive pink-dotted surface, often with shallow longitudinal grooves. The intensity of the pink colouring can be very variable, sometimes very pale or rudimentary, but is always present. The flesh of the stem is white, solid at first, but becomes hollow with age.

Russulas are very common in jarrah forest and a number of species have red caps. *Russula clelandii* is one of the most common species and is easily distinguished by its pinkish stem. Russulas also have a distinct texture, which makes their stems snap like chalk when they are bent.

The scientific name refers to the first *Russula* described and also honours the distinguished South Australian naturalist and mycologist Dr JB Cleland (1878-1921). *Russ-*: reddish (likely referring to the colour of the Northern hemisphere type specimen for *Russula*, *Russula emetrica*, which has a red cap), *-ula*: pertaining to; *clelandii –*: after Dr JB Clelland.