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Russula flocktoniae

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Russula flocktoniae is a common species found in most eucalypt forests and woodlands in southern Australia. In the southwest it occurs most commonly in jarrah forest and coastal woodlands in early autumn to early winter. It fruits singly or in small groups.

Caps are bright orange, generally 5–6cm diameter but may be as large as 8cm (or even up to 10cm in south eastern Australian forests). They are generally dome-shaped with a small central depression but become funnel-shaped or irregularly wavy as they expand. The cap surface has a dry somewhat velvety texture. Gills are white, thick, widely spaced and extend a short distance down the stem. Stem is white near the top then pale orange or brownish, short and somewhat stout but tapering at the base. Like all species of *Russula*, *Russula flocktoniae* has a brittle texture and all parts of the fruit body—cap, gills and stem, ‘snap’ easily.

The scientific name refers to the colour of the type specimen for *Russula* and also honours well-known botanical artist Margaret Flockton who worked at the National Herbarium at Sydney’s Botanic Gardens (and the NSW Forestry Department) from 1901–1927. *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; *flockton-*: after, *-iae*: named after or pertaining to.