

LFW NEWS

FUNGIMAP

MERREDIN

In 1947 an enthusiastic local resident, Mrs Margaret Mills, collected *Battarea stevenii* near Merredin. This unusual-looking fungus had not been seen in WA since - until Kastle Adamson collected it on the family property at Booraan on 21/5/00. Great excitement, as it is a 'target species' for Fungimap.

Fungimap is a nation-wide project which is attempting to record where fungi occur in Australia. On 8th-9th July, 20 people gathered at Merredin for a workshop with the State Fungimap Coordinator, Katie Syme. After some introductory study, we travelled to Totadgin Nature Reserve and were soon finding all sorts of fungi. Specifically, we were searching for 'target species', which are specifically listed to encourage people to find and record them. We found one too, *Xerula australis*!

Beautiful weather made Sunday's fungi search all the more exhilarating. Gathering on the north side of Merredin Peak we searched for two hours through thickets near the granite rock. The children with us were excellent, darting about like rabbits under the shrubbery, collecting all sorts of fungi with great excitement. Thirty-four species were found, including three as yet unidentified truffles and three more target species.

Before leaving Merredin, Katie and Mrs Mills met. It was an overwhelming occasion, as they chatted together of fungi as though they had been friends since they were girls. She could clearly remember the locations where she had collected and illustrated fungi fifty years ago! (The WA Naturalists' Club has loaned Katie it's copy of Mrs Mills' drawings of fungi from the Merredin district - a wonderful record.)

Heather Adamson



▲ *Battarea stevenii*, young and mature plants.



Mrs Mills, now confined to a nursing home, and Katie Syme talk about fungi. ▲

DRYANDRA

Everyone had a great day, smiling even despite the rain! Seventy-five fungi, including five target species, were found. Photo: Kim Kershaw ▼

