



Great Sandy National Park
Lake Cooroibah Section
QMS Foray, 17th May 2014

2014 is our 5th year to survey this part of the Great Sandy NP. I had been wondering whether we should look at surveying a different place next year. (In fact one of the Park Rangers asked me why we didn't do other areas.)

However, the wallum habitat at Lake Cooroibah is very special. The Ranger also informed me that they had done a controlled burn about 2 weeks before, of one part that we regularly survey, so I was keen to see if any fungal fire specialists were fruiting.



As it turned out, we found only one fungus that is known to fruit after fire, but of the 30 species that we found, only 3 or 4 had been found in any of our previous surveys, and only one (***Pycnoporus coccineus***) has been found in all 5 surveys! The total number of species for our survey area is now 101. We added 3 new *Amanitas*, 3 new *Cortinarius*, and 2 new *Boletes*.



So this is a very good reason to keep looking at the same area on an annual basis!



Pyronema omphalodes – an Asco.

Firstly the fire specialist: Susie found this one. A ***Pyronema omphalodes***, the Orange Ash Fungus, it is an Ascomycete first described in 1870. It grows in the ash or charcoal after fire and can form quite extensive sheets of orange,-pink fruitbody, with white mycelial margin. This fungus grows in a recently sterilized substrate (whether by fire or steam sterilization.) The apothecia matt together to form a confluent mass and may be red, pink, orange, ivory or white, and they are not hairy.



Peziza sp.



While we are on Ascomycetes, Susie also found a ***Peziza species***. This was a brown cup, which varied from 10 to 20mm diameter. There are several brown *Pezizas*, and we didn't determine which one it was.

Chanterelles are common finds in this habitat, but are very variable and probably represent at least two species.



Cantharellus ochraceoravus

One of the interesting finds of the last 3 years has been that of Chanterelles. These fungi, which are classified with the Agarics (i.e. gilled fungi), really have thick folds which run down onto the stem of the fruitbody. Some are thicker and sparser than others. Last year we thought we collected ***Cantharellus ochraceoravus***, which is the biggest of the Australian chanterelles



2014 No.11

Possibly *Cantharellus*
ochraceoravus

This year's specimens key out to being ***Cantharellus concinnus***.



Cantharellus concinnus

We found them in two different places



Amanita pallidogrisea

Amanitas are always present at Cooloola, but they differ each year, and so far we have collected 10 species, including 3 new ones this year. One small to medium Amanita was found in several places along the sandy track, and associated with Scribbly gums, Grey gums and Allocasuarinas. It showed some variation in colour, and some specimens had an annulus, while others did not, they all had white volvas, though some were quite sock like while others were more attached, and they all had patches of velar remains on the cap surface, and no striate margins. The spores were somewhat variable, but all amyloid, broadly ellipsoid and fitted in the range of size for **Amanita pallidogrisea**. Specimen 9 keyed out most closely in Alec Wood's key.



Colour variants were common

Amanita pallidogrisea

Fran and James are amazed by these enormous finds of Joyce



The next amazing find was made by our local contact, Joyce Newton, who regularly walks in the park and had found this one earlier in the week. It was truly enormous, being almost 200mm in diameter.



Amanita ochrophylla

A smaller, younger one was found close by, under the Casuarinas in an area that had been burnt. It had a cap covered with scaly velar remnants, and was buffy-ochre in colour, with appendiculate margin. It was also quite strong smelling.



There was one upper pendulous annulus, and another distinct ring completely attached low down on the stem. The stem itself was large, with a bulbous base. These features all pointed to it being ***Amanita ochrophylla***.



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The third Amanita for the day was quite young and unfortunately did not produce any spore print. Two specimens were found in separate locations, but the distinctive metallic grey cap with numerous reddish buff scales, the red streaking on the very solid and bulbous stem and the red underside to the annulus, and red staining when bruised again made the identification clear.



It is the same as one we found at Chermside Hills back in 2009.



and Susan found at Greater Glider in Feb. Patrick tells us that this is an ***Amanita aff rubescens***. It is so distinctive and gorgeous, that I would like it to get its own name soon!

Cortinarius – oh so many, and so difficult!



Members of the **Cortinarius** genus are distinctive, but seem impossible to separate with certainty into species. We found, probably 4 different species. I have given tag names to a couple which appeared distinctive, but have not been collected there before

Cortinarius sinapicolor



Another two species, we have tried to match to described species and have come up with ***Cortinarius sinapicolor***.



Cortinarius sp. "brick red" ?*eartoxicus*

and ***Cortinarius eartoxicus***. (However, these are best guesses from the literature that Vanessa and I have access to.)

Showing orange rhizoids



Another Cortinarius



Russula species 4

- The only Russula of the day, and the first record of it for the Foray area.
- Only one Russula previously recorded in this area

Russulas seem to be quite uncommon in this habitat, or perhaps we just don't foray at the right time. However, this year we found one that is described in Fungi of Queensland as ***Russula sp. 4.***

Boletes – interesting finds, but difficult to ID

Tylopilus sp. “lilac brown”



We have on several occasions found boletes, always different and on this occasion they were probably of the ***Tylopilus*** group. Unfortunately this beautiful one was too young to drop spores, and so we couldn't get any further with it.



Very unusual bolete, with slightly decurrent gill/pore surface, ellipsoid spores



This next specimen was a strange one that looked like any other gilled fungus from the top, but underneath had decurrent, elongated gill-like pores near the stipe and smaller angled pores near the margin. The spores were ellipsoid, and the pundits say it is Boletaceae.



Susie's great find! A truffle – said to be a *Pogiesperma* sp. (related to boletes)

The third in the Boletaceae was a great find by Susie, who has an eye for small half-hidden things. She found this hypogeous fungus, two-thirds buried in the sand. The exterior was greyish white, fairly thin and the inside was pinkish brown fine convoluted chambers. The spores were smooth, narrow and ellipsoid. I contacted Teresa Lebel who is the most knowledgeable truffle person I know. She was able to say that the specimen was probably a ***Pogiesperma*** which is related to the boletes.

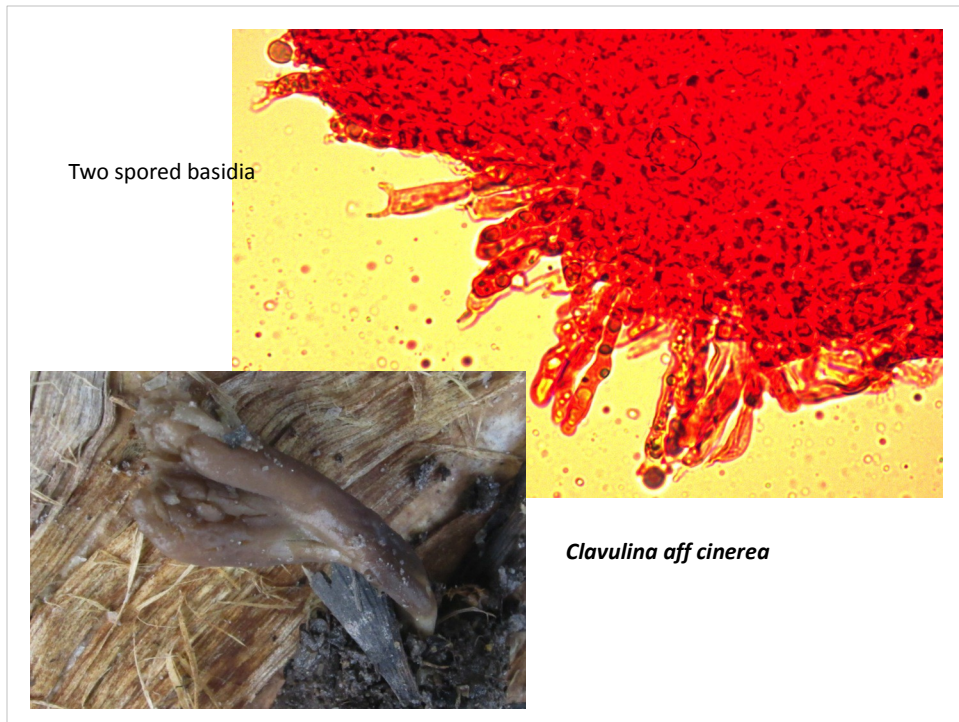


After last month's talk on Ramaria, it was great that we found one species of Ramaria on this foray. From the descriptions given by Tony Young, our specimen is ***Ramaria capitata var. capitata.***



Possible *Postia* **sp.** with white flesh, slightly pink pores on cutting.

This greyish-white, spongy but tough polypore is possibly a ***Postia***, but we are not sure. Gretchen may be able to tell us more.



The last specimen that Adrian picked up was a grey coral which dropped a slightly off-white spore print, with rather variable spores from globose to ovate and broadly ellipsoid. The interesting thing was that the basidia were obviously two-spored and had long curving sterigmata. It is possibly ***Clavulina aff cinerea*** which is illustrated in Fuhrer in a much more branched form.

The fungi forayers of Cooloola, 2014



This shows the happy group of forayers at the site.