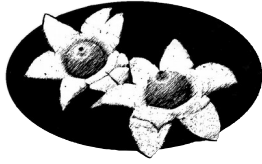


THE QUEENSLAND MYCOLOGIST



Bulletin of
The Queensland Mycological Society Inc

Vol 11 Issue 1, Autumn 2015



The Queensland Mycological Society

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Society Objectives

The objectives of the Queensland Mycological Society are to:

1. Provide a forum and a network for amateur and professional mycologists to share their common interest in macro-fungi;
2. Stimulate and support the study and research of Queensland macro-fungi through the collection, storage, analysis and dissemination of information about fungi through workshops and fungal forays;
3. Promote, at both the state and federal levels, the identification of Queensland's macrofungal biodiversity through documentation and publication of its macro-fungi;
4. Promote an understanding and appreciation of the roles macro-fungal biodiversity plays in the health of Queensland ecosystems; and
5. Promote the conservation of indigenous macro-fungi and their relevant ecosystems.

The Queensland Mycologist

The Queensland Mycologist is issued quarterly. Members are invited to submit short articles or photos to the editor for publication. Material can be in any word processor format, but not PDF. The deadline for contributions for the next issue is **15 May 2016**, but earlier submission is appreciated. Late submissions may be held over to the next edition, depending on space, the amount of editing required, and how much time the editor has. Photos should be submitted separately at full-size to allow flexibility in resizing and cropping to fit the space available while minimising loss of quality. Authors who have specific preferences regarding placement of photos should indicate in the text where they want them, bearing in mind that space and formatting limitations may mean that it is not always possible to comply. Material from published sources may be included if that complies with copyright laws and the author and source are properly acknowledged.

Membership

Membership of QMS is \$25 per annum, due at the beginning of each calendar year, and is open to anyone with an interest in Queensland fungi. Membership is **not** restricted to people living in Queensland. Membership forms are available on the website, <http://qldfungi.org.au/>.

Could members please notify the membership secretary (memsec@qldfungi.org.au) of changes to their contact details, especially e-mail addresses.

Cover photo:

Artist Name: donna davis

Date: 2015

Title: Discovery

Media: Pigment print on Hahnemühle fine art rag

Size: 40 x 60 x 5 cm

Image courtesy of the artist.

This work has been selected for the 'Cream of the Crop' exhibition, to tour to seven (7) galleries around the state through 2016. This exhibition is part of Flying Arts Queensland Regional Art Awards. See page 5 for details of venues and Donna's statement about the work.

QMS Committee

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Contents

QMS Calendar	4
Editor's Comments	4
The Cover Artwork	5
December Newsletter Corrections and Comments	5
Tenth Birthday Party Highlights	6
Looking back over 10 years and forward to the next decade	7
Social Media and Fungi	9
Observations of a Hoop Pine Log	12
Science Dictionary	13

QMS Activities

Meetings

Meetings are held in the F.M. Bailey Room at the Queensland Herbarium, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Road, Toowong, commencing at 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month from February (no January meeting), unless otherwise scheduled. Check the website for details and any changes. There will be 3-4 guest speakers invited during the year and other meetings will be informal. Suggestions from members for topics or names of potential speakers or talks will be welcome at any time. Please contact a member of the Committee.

To assist those unable to attend meetings, notes on the talks are included in the Queensland Mycologist and on the website wherever possible. However, the notes never do justice to the topic as they do not reflect the enthusiasm of the speaker or cover the discussion that follows. So remember, where possible it is better to attend the meetings, get the information first hand and participate in the invaluable information sharing opportunity.

Suppers are provided by volunteers. If you are able to assist please contact the Secretary.

Forays

QMS hold regular forays during the first half of the year. The dates are nominally the 4th Saturday of the month, but actual dates may vary and additional forays may also be held. Field trip details may change as a result of drought or other unforeseen circumstances. Check the website for changes.

Members are invited to suggest venues for additional forays. If you have any suggestions (and especially if you are willing to lead a foray), please contact Fran Guard or another member of the Committee.

Workshops

QMS runs workshops in the second half of the year, when there is little field activity. In 2015 workshops were held in August and October.

What do you, our members, want to learn more about that could be presented in a workshop? QMS is always on the lookout for workshop ideas. Members are encouraged to suggest topics, whether new or reruns of past workshops.

Send your ideas to Fran or Ronda (info@qldfungi.org.au).

Details of workshops will be included in future newsletters and on the QMS website.

QMS Calendar – 2016

MONTH	MEETINGS	FORAYS/WORKSHOPS
March	8th Speaker: Dr John Stanisic Australian Snails and Fungi	11th to 13 th RESIDENTIAL FORAY Maroochy Botanic Gardens Woondum National Park (NP) Linda Garrett NP
April	12 th Members: February Foray Reports March Foray Initial Report	23rd Great Sandy NP, Lake Cooroibah Leader Fran Guard
May	10 th Members contributions	28 th Cunningham's Gap Leaders Peter and Ronda Warhurst
June	14 th Speaker: AGM Dr Tony Young: Hygrocybes	25 th Bribie Island Leader Patrick Leonard
July	14th Members: Foray Reports	2 nd Murrumba Downs Leaders Susie Webster & Bev Miles
August	9 th Speaker: Foray report: Bribie Is.	27 th Workshop:
September	13 th Members evening: Foray Report: Great Sandy NP.	-----
October	11 th Speaker:	29 th Workshop
November	8 th Members: Workshop report	-----
December	13 th Christmas Party	Christmas Break

Editor's Comments

December 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of QMS. I think we can all be proud of what has been achieved.

Special thanks to those enthusiastic and hard working people who founded the society and who have served on the executive and in other key roles over the last decade. I would encourage those members who have some free time and are not already involved to step up and take on one of the various roles that have been filled by a relatively small number of people over the years.

Coverage of our anniversary starts with a list of highlights from the December meeting, prepared by Fran Guard, followed by an account based on her presentation. Megan Prance has prepared an article based on her talk about social media. Photos taken at the December meeting can be found on pages 6 and 11, as well as in Fran's article.

I am grateful to Donna Davis for allowing us to use

one of her wonderful creations on the front page of this issue. Her artwork is helping to introduce fungi to new audiences that might never have considered the importance and aesthetic appeal of these fascinating organisms. The work used here is being exhibited around Queensland over the next year. I urge you to read Donna's description of the work, where and when the exhibition will be as it travels around the state, and also information on Donna's current activities.

Tony Young and Tom May both had comments on the Cairns foray article in the December newsletter. See page 5.

To round off the newsletter, we have a "traditional" fungi article based on Fran's observations of the succession of fungi on a hoop pine log. And what a succession it is, with some beautiful fungi!

My apologies, I forget who sent me a link to an online science dictionary. Thank you anyway. I tried a few terms and it seemed to work well. Link on page 13.

The Cover Artwork

We are fortunate that Donna Davis has allowed us to use one of her wonderful digital artworks on the cover of this issue of the newsletter. Donna has provided the following details and artist statement about this work.

Artist Name: donna davis

Date: 2015

Title: *Discovery*

Media: Pigment print on Hahnemühle fine art rag

Size: 40 x 60 x 5 cm

Image courtesy of the artist.

This work was selected for the 'Cream of the Crop' exhibition, to tour to seven (7) galleries around the state. This exhibition is part of Flying Arts Queensland Regional Art Awards, the venues are as follows:

- Warwick Art Gallery: 21 January – 28 February
- Gallery 107, Dalby: 12 March – 10 April
- Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Art, Fortitude Valley: 28 April – 23 May
- Roma on Bungil Art Gallery: 24 June – 7 August
- Mundubberra Regional Art Gallery: 26 August – 19 October
- Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery: 1 November – 2 December
- Tablelands Regional Art Gallery: 16 December – 29 January 2017

Discovery explores conservation of endangered flora species in my local area, with reference to natural history collections.

When I first learnt that plants and fungi often build symbiotic relationships in order to promote optimum health for both species, I began to wonder whether our local endangered Swamp Tea-tree and Cooneana Olive populations shared similar relationships.

Natural history collections and environmental surveys both past and present can assist in providing valuable data for research and conservation strategies; however often environmental surveys do not include the important world of fungi.

This work references these two endangered flora species, with the addition of local fungi species. The specimens are presented in world of suspended animation, together yet separate, preserved in time and space to await inquiry. Will new connections between seed, root and fungi be discovered? Could these discoveries aid in the conservation of these species?

My current project entitled *Unseen* will research and conceptually develop ideas for a new body of interactive artworks inspired by fungi that grow alongside the endangered Swamp Tea-tree population found at the Purga Nature Refuge, Ipswich.

This project has been proudly supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF). The Regional Arts Development Fund is a Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Ipswich City Council partnership to support local arts and culture. This project is also supported by the Queensland Herbarium, centre for research and information on Queensland ecosystems, plants and fungi.

donna davis

December Newsletter Corrections and Comments

Susie Webster

After reading the December newsletter, Tony Young sent the following:

"The lovely picture supposedly of *Ramaria ochraceosalmonicolor* isn't that species.



It's a picture of an open coralloid species that has turned up everywhere along the eastern Australian coastline."

Tony is uncertain if this one has been described before and is looking into it.

Also, Tom May expressed interest in the tiny blue fungus identified as *Mycena interrupta* as "the most northerly dot on the map known to date seems to be from Lamington. The stipe in the photo looks rather long in relation to the pileus diameter for typical *M. interrupta*."

We will give Tom the only specimen for further checking.



Tenth Birthday Party Highlights

- The Celebration took place at the Queensland Herbarium on 8th December 2015
- Attendance of ~50 members - present and past, plus supporters
- Festive surrounds with fungal themed decorations, including two large soft sculptures of a bolete and an *Amanita*.
- Display of photographs of fungi plus other artwork by several members covered the walls of the FM Bailey Room.
- Posters illustrated past workshops, forays and special sites.
- Key poster of stinkhorns was displayed
- Review of the past ten year's history and achievements given by president
- Presentation of Life Membership Certificates made to founding mycologist, Tony Young, and (in absentia) to current chief mycologist, Queensland Herbarium, Nigel Fechner.
- Herbarium presented a Certificate of Appreciation to QMS for over 1000 specimens contributed in last 10 years.
- Short illustrated talks highlighted aspects of QMS life:
 - a. Community Education (Jutta Godwin)
 - b. Residential and Day Forays and Workshops (Susie Webster)
 - c. Production of field guide "Australian Subtropical Fungi" (Fran Guard)
 - d. Using social media – fungi on Facebook (Megan Prance)
 - e. Our website-qldfungi.org.au (Vanessa Ryan)
 - f. Working on the Red List (Pat Leonard & Fran Guard)
 - g. Fungal film making (Jean Cesar Peuchmann)
- A celebratory song "All fungi are beautiful" with soloist (John Wrench) and chorus
- A fantastic birthday cake and other "fungal" delights for supper.
- A chance to catch up with old friends and new.



Members chatting in the foyer. Photo © Vanessa Ryan



The FM Bailey Room abuzz with conversation. Photo © Vanessa Ryan



F.M. Bailey Room decorated with members' photos and guests awaiting the start of the meeting. Photo © Frances Guard



Jutta Godwin and Tony Young cutting the cake. Photo © Frances Guard

Looking back over 10 years and forward to the next decade

Frances Guard

History: As the Society's 4th President, I have inherited a rich legacy from my predecessors. The ten-year anniversary of QMS has been the stimulus for me to look at our achievements and think about the future of the Society.

The embryonic group started as the "Fungi Interest Group", back in December 2005, following a stimulating introductory conference, largely organised by Jutta Godwin of Cubberla Witten Catchment Network. The group was briefly called the "Qld Fungal Network" - a bit mycelial, one might suggest! However, the name quickly adopted and still current was and is "**Queensland Mycological Society**".



Gathering of 2005 attendees. Photo © Vanessa Ryan

The group has grown over the years and we now have a membership of 80, though our influence is much wider than that number would suggest.

Our format of regular **meetings**, with **forays** in the fungi season, and occasional **workshops** has worked well for members who live in proximity to Brisbane. (I realise that for other members, this is not necessarily true.)

Many of our **speakers** over the years have been outstanding. They have broadened our understanding of fungi and the whole ecosystem, and deepened our knowledge of specific fungi and their roles. A couple that spring to mind are John Dearnaley's lecture on "Mycorrhizal Fungi", and Ross McKenzie's lecture on poisonous fungi and their effects on animals and humans. There are many more. A few of these have been uploaded to the QMS Website, and this is one way to give the whole membership the content of the talks, although it can never replace live presentations.

Since we have instituted the **members' contributions** meetings along with our foray

reports, I am endlessly amazed by the diversity of fungi that other members find and bring to the meetings to contribute to our pool of knowledge, and sometimes ignorance – which then challenges us to dig deeper.

Data collection is an important part of our life as a Society.

Our forays and individual collections of fungal specimens have contributed approximately 3250 records over the last 10 years, and more than 1000 specimens for the Qld Herbarium. This achievement was recognised by the Herbarium presenting us with a Certificate at the Anniversary. These records are vital for any research or planning for conservation.



Certificate of Appreciation from BRI. Photo © Vanessa Ryan

QMS has contributed to the wider field of **biodiversity conservation**, through our submissions both on a state and federal level. Most recently we've submitted to **Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, 2010-2030 Review**. As a community based group, we are able to voice our concerns independently. (Of course, our major concern is that still there is no acknowledgement among policy makers of the Kingdom of Fungi as a separate and vitally important entity within the whole range of biodiversity!)

A project currently being undertaken is to propose a number of fungal species for the IUCN **Red List**. As our overall knowledge of Australian fungi – their population density and distribution - is very limited, this is a huge challenge. However, as there are currently **NO** Red Listed fungi in Queensland, this is one way of highlighting their existence and probable threatened status.

Community education continues to be one of the most important aspects of QMS activities. Over the



Soft sculpture with artist Donna Davis. Photo © Frances Guard

years we have been called on to give talks, write articles for Landcare and Wildlife journals, hold workshops and seminars, organise fungal related kids' activities and undertake surveys of fungi in various areas of south-east Queensland. A number of our members have contributed to these activities, giving hundreds of hours of voluntary time to share our interest in fungi.

New modes of communication have come into play and have enabled a large number of people from all over Australia and overseas to network through **Facebook** sites. This has given people a voice and a platform on which to share their fungi photos, and finds, and to seek information from experts.

One of the most valuable and yet not always fully appreciated contributions of QMS to its membership is our Newsletter. In responding to invitations to 10th Anniversary party, a number of people who said they could not come because of distance, commented on the quality of the Newsletter. David Holdom has edited the "**Queensland Mycologist**" for over 8 years and is to be congratulated on his work. He has built on the solid foundation commenced by Ray and Noreen Baxter.

Other achievements of QMS over the last 10 years include the publishing of ***Australian Subtropical Fungi*** (authors – Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, Patrick Leonard and Frances Guard), a regional field guide and introduction to the kingdom of fungi. This has proved popular and the first 1100 copies have all sold. Other regional guides published in the same year (2014), have also sold well and demonstrate that there is a demand for these books and a growing interest in fungi, by the public.

The **QMS Website** has been vastly expanded in the last 4 or 5 years. It is now worth consulting for keys, foray reports, meeting dates and reports, the large list of species described in Fungi of Queensland (FoQ), upcoming events and other information. Our thanks for the setting up of this resource go to a number of members, especially Andrew Kettle. Most recently Vanessa Ryan has devoted a large chunk of her time to making it really high quality, up to date

and user friendly.

Friendships have been forged over fungi forays, workshops, conferences and through the Society. This is an important aspect of any community group.



Ronda Warhurst cuts up the anniversary cake. Photo © Vanessa Ryan

Sometimes we've struggled as different views have clashed. At times we've had to work through widely differing approaches that have caused conflict, and some heartache. However, as a modern poet has put it we are "rich in diversity...able to clash and forgive". I think our Society is the stronger for the hard times as well as the good.

The Future: Where to from here?

QMS has made significant contributions to mycology in Queensland, but there is still an enormous amount of data to be collected, discoveries to be made, fungi to be named, and both policy makers and the general public to be educated!

We can look at this as an onerous task, an exciting challenge, a lot of fun, or a combination of all three.

Our Society is only as strong as its individual members, and we need each other's support and encouragement to meet the challenges ahead. The environment is under threat from habitat destruction and climate change. We know that biodiversity is decreasing at an alarming rate in other biota. We are in a race against time to document and protect fungal flora along with all biodiversity.

We need to use all methods at our disposal to further our aims.

If this means using digital recording of our data, social media for sharing our knowledge, creating films, writing articles and speaking to as many groups as we can, then we must embrace all these methods. Each of us can contribute and we can learn from each other.

I feel that QMS is uniquely placed to link citizen science with professional mycology, and to communicate with the public combining art, science and our enthusiasm. There are new and diverse ways opening up and ours is now the challenge to make use of these in the next decade.

Social Media and Fungi

A talk given by Megan Prance at the Dec 2015 meeting of QMS.

I was given 5 minutes to talk about Social Media and Fungi. Wow, where to start? Well four words are enough. Facebook, just do it.

The Wolston & Centenary Catchments Inc. undertook a Fungi survey in the western suburbs of Brisbane in 2014-15. This was funded by a Brisbane City Council Environment Grant. An unexpected outcome was Brett Malcolm decided to set up the SEQ Fungi Facebook group in May 2014. At 12 months we had 400 members, at 18 months we had 750, now at 21 months we have 880. We are doing something right.



Brett Malcolm. photo © M Prance

The mantra for the group is "It's about fungi". New members are made to feel welcome and their posts noticed. The *Parasola* photo was Bev Miles' first post.



Parasola plicatilis. Photo © Bev Miles

While we focus on fungi in SE Qld we gather information from around the world too.

We get to hear about research, often before it is published. For example, Dr Shane Ingrey used traditional indigenous knowledge of plants and isolated bacteria and fungi that live in the plant tissue, and screened their DNA for genes that produce antibiotic proteins.

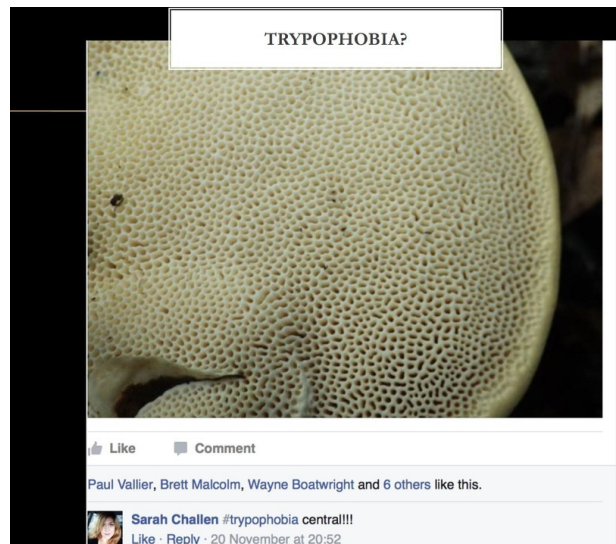
Ahhh endophytes!



Dr Shane Ingrey. Photo courtesy UNSW

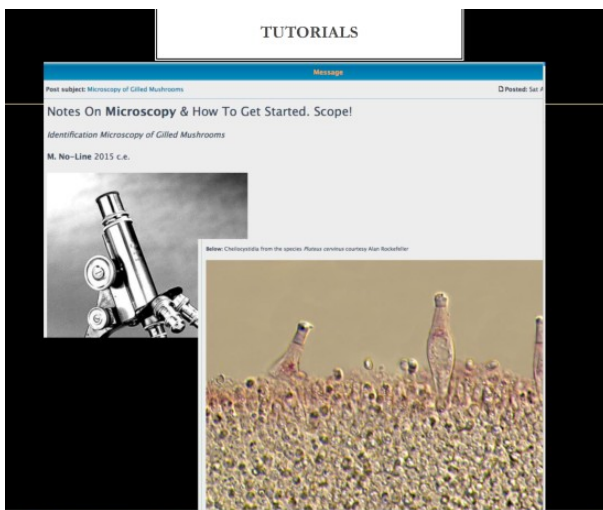
<https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/news/graduation-indigenous-phd-graduate-blends-traditional-medicine-and-modern-science>

We have fun with words.



Trametes lactinea. Photo © Ken Goulter)

We find tutorials. Facebook is a fabulous learning tool for Mycologists.



See:

<http://www.hyphalfusion.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=138400&p=297276#p297276>

There are many other Facebook groups that focus on fungi. Some go deeper into a particular topic or concentrate on a local area. For example there are groups that cover microscopy, ascomycetes and polypores. The British Mycological Society has a Facebook group. Visiting these other groups helps to get a world view of fungal genera.

We love our echidna. A 5 cent piece pops into many of the photos as a fun way to give scale to an image.

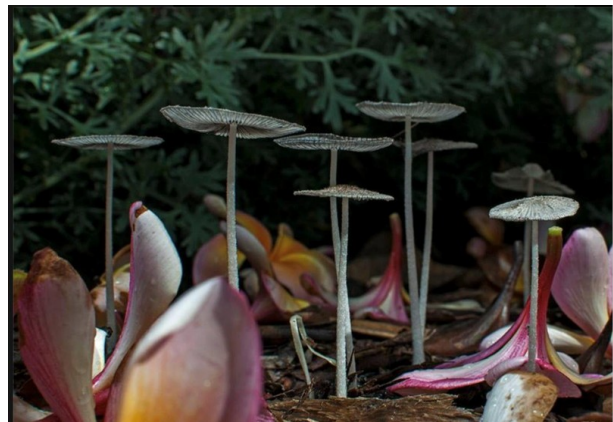
We get to hear about where fungi are fruiting. I've hardly ever seen *Anthracophyllum archeri* but it was "going off" everywhere along the east coast from north Queensland to Tasmania in late October-early November.



Anthracophyllum archeri. Photo © Megan Prance

Then there is the photography. We have a lot of very talented photographers. While I don't want to leave anyone out, that is not possible. Paul Vallier, Adrian Harris, John van de Geyn regularly post

superb photographs. We have the incredibly creative Leo Li, whose photo of delicate fungi among fallen frangipani flowers is the current banner for the SEQ Fungi page. Tips on taking good photos for identification and aesthetic appeal can be found on SEQ Fungi.



Fungi among the frangipani. Photo © Leo Li.

Paul Vallier was on a photoshoot with a friend and wanted to get names for his photos. He found SEQ Fungi and then joined QMS too. He now has his own Collecting Permit and is sending specimens to the Herbarium regularly. I call this a big WIN! On his second trip out looking for fungi he found "Lady Blue" at Woondum National Park, near Gympie. While he was stunned by her beauty, he assumed she would have been well known. His photos were shared around a few Facebook groups around the world and over 500 mycophiles commented. Nobody had seen anything like it before. He is hooked!

So the power of social media can be harnessed to promote fungi.

Just do it. Join in the fun.



"Lady Blue". Photos © Paul Vallier

If you need help to get started with Facebook, send me an email and I'll walk you through the process. SEQFungi is a "closed" group. This just means you have to ask to join. The admin team will vet your profile before accepting your application. If you are new to Facebook, please email me first.

(Megan.prance (@) icloud.com). We tend to view people who have just joined FB and have no "friends" and no photos with a little bit of suspicion- many spammers present like this and we block them.



Wayne Boatwright signs his photo on a foray poster. Photo © Vanessa Ryan



Edible creation by Wayne Boatwright. Photo © Frances Guard



Little butterscotch mushrooms. Photo © Vanessa Ryan



John Wrench's creative mushrooms. Photo © Vanessa Ryan



Future mycologists. Photo © Jutta Godwin



Future mycologists. Photo © Jutta Godwin

Observations of a Hoop Pine Log

Frances Guard

One of my interests is to watch a particular substrate over time and notice the fungi that occur there.

Sometimes I know very little of the history of the site and can only guess at the changes that have already occurred. However, at other times I know the whole story. One such instance is right in our garden.

Thirty years ago we planted a lot of hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), seedlings on the kikuyu covered slopes of our property, not realising just how big they would grow. About two years back, our vegetable garden was becoming overshadowed by two enormous pines, and their roots were invading every garden bed. We decided these two had to go! They were chain-sawed down and the logs and stumps left on the hill to decompose. (The veggies have since flourished.)

The logs dried a little and some bark began to curl off. Then in the wet season of 2015, fungi began to appear. First off the mark was a crop of *Auricularia cornea* on both the cut stump and the end of one log. This fungus has remained a long time, freshening up and producing more fruitbodies after significant rain, then shrivelling as it dries out.

This was followed by some *Ganoderma australe* brackets, which have appeared at ground level on the stump and also at the cut edge, approximately 700mm apart. They are quite small at present, but actively growing and I expect they will continue their saprophytic work until the stump is converted to humus.

Meantime one of the smaller branches supported a wedge shaped white polypore, with soft rounded margin and large pores that became maze-like near the attachment. It lasted a few months only and then was consumed by insects, possibly beetle larvae, and subsequently dropped off. (I have not been able to identify this one.)

Then the whole log burst into colour with a huge crop of *Pycnoporus coccineus*.

It was easy to see the orange mycelium working its way under the bark, and staining the timber. The fruitbodies grew enormous, up to ~ 90mm diameter. They appeared along the upper surface of the log, but also on the old exposed roots at ground level. They lasted several months, eventually fading from brilliant orange to dirty white.



Auricularia cornea young and old fruiting bodies.
Photos © Frances Guard



Ganoderma australe. Photo © Frances Guard



White wedge polypore. Photo © Frances Guard



Pycnoporus coccineus on log. Note staining.
Photos © Frances Guard

Mixed with them were beautiful hairy mauve to buff coloured *Panus lecomtei*. I initially thought they were *Panus fasciatus*, but on checking the literature realised my mistake. (Sapphire suggested the correct I.D.)

It appears that the habitat for *P. lecomtei* is tropical and warm temperate forest, while *P. fasciatus* is usually found in drier eucalypt and mallee woodland, and most importantly, *P. lecomtei* has thick-walled metuloid cystidia^{1,2} as shown in the accompanying image.

Another inhabitant of the smaller branches of the old tree has been *Trametes hirsuta*. This velvety bracket can be distinguished from *T. versicolor* by its lack of coloured zones and its more hairy surface. *T. hirsuta* also has a broad attachment.

The most recent, and to me, surprising fungus to emerge has been two fruit bodies of *Pleurotus tuber regium*. I have only ever seen this species in rainforest, though always associated with *Araucaria* trees (either *A. bidwilli* or *A. cunninghamii*). As well, although it is saprophytic, I have previously only seen it with living trees.

All of my observations to date have been of large and rather hardy fungal species.

The logs are quite exposed to the elements and not presently conducive to supporting more ephemeral fungi. I will continue to watch with interest over the coming wet seasons to see what new species occur in the succession of saprotrophs, as the logs gradually decay.

References

¹ Cheryl Grgurinovic: Larger Fungi of South Australia, page 32.

² Bruce Fuhrer: A Field Guide to Australian Fungi, page 155.



Panus lecomtei and metuloid cheilocystidia.
Photos © Frances Guard



Trametes hirsuta. Photo © Frances Guard



Pleurotus tuber regium. Photo © Frances Guard

Science Dictionary

<https://www.thesciencedictionary.com/>

What is The Science Dictionary?

In a nutshell, we're like Google for science. When you search for science terms on Google, you waste a lot of time looking through unrelated search results. However, when you search for something on The Science Dictionary, we show you only scientific websites. We use the same engine that powers Google, then apply a proprietary technique on top of it to filter out any non-scientific results. Because of that, you only get the best and most relevant science results whenever you search on The Science Dictionary.