

Tropical Fungi Project

Building community Capacity for study of Australian Tropical Fungi

The Qld Mycological Society (QMS) has applied for a grant from Queensland Government Engaging Science Grants for this exciting new project. We hope to hear in the next few weeks if we've been successful.

If all goes well, we are planning to hold two **Training Workshops** in March 2018 (10th at Kuranda, and 18th at TREAT, Lake Eacham). At these Workshops participants will be given training in the roles of fungi, identifying and photographing them, and using the simple and accessible App, iNaturalist, to submit records for science. There will be a short foray included.

As well, there will be a **Microscopy/Polypore Workshop** at JCU (Cairns) on Sunday March 11th. This is for those people interested in pursuing study of the fascinating world of fungi and trying to come to grips with one of the large and important groups of fungi – the polypores and brackets.

Between those dates, several of us plan to undertake **Forays** in local Parks and Reserves to make collections, for study of the local fungi that may be new to science or just never before collected in northern Qld. This will be a chance for small groups of local enthusiasts to work with experienced mycologists.

Eventually, we hope to produce field identification guides for the enjoyment and education of locals and tourists to the region.

In November, I (Fran Guard) flew up to Cairns to liaise with some key people with whom we are hoping to work for this project. The enthusiasm and support I received was really encouraging. Both individuals and institutions are viewing this opportunity for fungal discovery and study as being worthy of significant financial and in-kind support. It was great to meet people on the ground! We are looking forward to the chance to share our passion for fungi with lots of folk in north Queensland.

If you would like to become a member of QMS, then you will be kept up to date on this and other activities of the Society, as well as receiving a regular newsletter and annual calendar with fungi photos contributed by members. (See the attached Membership form).

Frances Guard (Tropical Fungi Project coordinator)
7th Dec. 2017

