

THE QUEENSLAND MYCOLOGIST



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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
5. Promote the conservation of indigenous macro-fungi and their relevant ecosystems.

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/>.

Please notify the membership secretary (memsec@qldfungi.org.au) of changes to contact details, especially your email address.

The Queensland Mycologist

The Queensland Mycologist is issued quarterly, **but issues will be combined if there is insufficient material for four**. Members are invited to submit short articles or photos to the editor for publication. It is important to note that it is a newsletter and not a peer-reviewed journal. However we do aspire to high standards of accuracy and there is an extensive review process.

Material can be in any word processor format, **but not PDF**. The deadline for contributions for the next issue is **1 February 2025**, but if you have something ready, please send it **NOW!** 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, or the newsletter may come out late. Email contributions to the secretary.

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 (including internet sites such as Wikipedia) may be included **if that complies with copyright laws and the author and source are properly acknowledged**. However extensive verbatim copying is not acceptable.

Cover Illustration

A rather soggy *Panus lecomtei* growing on old plywood at my place at Flaxton. © David Holdom

QMS Committee

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Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| QMS Program 2025 | 4 |
| Editor's Comments | 4 |
| Index of Australian Fungi | 4 |
| <i>Irpex latemarginatus</i> | 5 |
| Ghost fungus (<i>Omphalotus nidiformis</i>) | 6 |
| Fungarium | 6 |
| <i>Pluteus chrysaegis</i> | 7 |
| Mary River Festival | 8 |
| Panus on Plywood | 9 |
| Links, Links and More Links | 9 |

QMS activities

Meetings

Meetings are held on the second TUESDAY of the month at the Queensland Herbarium, Mt Coot-tha, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Meetings are held monthly from February (no January meeting), unless otherwise scheduled. **Check the website for details and any changes.** There are typically 3-4 guest speakers invited during the year, with the other meetings informal. Suggestions from members for topics or names of potential speakers will be welcome at any time. Please contact a member of the Committee.

We like to publish notes from presentations in the *Queensland Mycologist*. 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, and not many talks are written up for the newsletter. If you do present at a meeting, a summary of that presentation that can be turned into a newsletter article will be greatly appreciated. But it is better to attend the meetings, get the information first hand, and participate in these invaluable information sharing opportunities.

Forays

QMS holds 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 Wayne Boatwright or another member of the Committee.

Workshops

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 Wayne Boatwright (info@qldfungi.org.au).

Details of workshops will be included in newsletters and on the QMS website as they become available.

The Australasian Mycological Society

A reminder that the Australasian Mycological Society is well worth joining.

Their home page is at: <https://www.australasianmycologicalsociety.com/>

They also have virtual seminars. For more information visit the website.

QMS Program 2025

| MONTH | MEETINGS | FORAYS |
|--|--|---|
| The Calendar for the first half of 2025 is below. The full calendar is on the QMS website. It is subject to change, so check the website for updates. | | |
| January | No meeting | 24-26 th . Residential |
| February | 11 th . First meeting for 2025. speaker TBA | 8 th Bellthorpe 22 nd . Linda garrett |
| March | 11 th speaker TBA | 8 th Mt Cordeaux 29 th Daisy's Place |
| April | 8 th . speaker TBA | 19 th . Cooloolah NP |
| May | 13 th . Speaker TBA | 3 rd . Ben Bennett 24 th Annie Hehir |
| June | 10 th . Speaker TBA | 7 th . Maroochy Bushland 21 st . John Oxley Park |

Editor's Comments

Once again a very short newsletter thanks to a lack of material, and the only one for 2024. I was promised foray reports, but they never appeared. I confess to putting this aside while waiting, then forgetting about it until I realised how late it is in the year! A tiny proportion of members actually write articles.

My sincere thanks go to Charmaine Thomas for almost everything in this newsletter. Pat Leonard sent a Fungi of Qld page and I decided to include that as well.

The core of past newsletters was foray reports, and write-ups of talks, but now we are receiving neither.

I can help get foray reports written up provided I have something to work with.

1. Species list
2. Some introductory notes: How many attended, preceding and current conditions, an overall impression of how many fungi there were (which will

Index of Australian Fungi

The *Index of Australian Fungi* is a new open source online vehicle for descriptions of Australian fungi, emanating from the Plant Pathology Herbarium in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at Dutton Park, led by Roger Shivas and Yu Pei Tan. While its main focus is on microfungi, there are a few Basidiomycetes included. Descriptions are based entirely on DNA, and type material is in the form of metabolically inactive material, primarily frozen cultures.

I realise many will be dismayed at the lack of morphology, but as a number of articles have made clear, at the current rate, description of new species it will take decades, if not centuries, and that is just what we have in collections now. In the case of many microfungi, morphology is simply not a basis

be a function of both the site and rainfall leading up to the foray).

3. Information on how many fungi were identified at least to genus, and what those identifications were. Some idea of how you got to that identification.

4. Photos. Can be emailed or sent via Dropbox. Preferably unedited originals. Editing of jpegs reduces quality so if I have to crop, shape or resize photos that have already been edited and especially if they have already been inserted into a document, the quality will be poor. It is better to use a placeholder with the name of the file. Or otherwise a reduced photo included in the document, plus the original sent separately.

Often quite a bit of trimming and editing is needed to get the document formatted, so having originals makes it easier.

I will also very likely copy your article as plain text (depending on how easily it comes over), but your formatting will give me an idea of how you want it to look, though I may have to deviate from that.

for distinguishing species, and one species can vary a great deal depending on the medium on which it is growing. In the common case of fungi that do not sporulate in culture, there is even less to go on. For example I cultured *Darksidea theta* on a very large number of media, and under different light regimes, keeping some cultures for over a year, and never saw a single spore. That work was extremely time consuming and simply not realistic for more than a tiny number of species, such as one that is otherwise seen as having high potential as a bioherbicide. There are a few illustrations in the form of photos, but they are not part of the formal descriptions.

<https://zenodo.org/communities/index-aus-fungi/records>

David Holdom

Irpex latemarginatus

Charmaine Thomas

One of my favourite spots for a walk on the Sunshine Coast is the Foote Sanctuary in Buderim. There are a good variety of trails for varying abilities throughout the nine hectare property which was donated for community recreational use by a local farming family in honour of their son who died in the line of duty in WW1. On the eastern slopes of Buderim, with well established vegetation at all levels from canopy to understory, most of the reserve is well shaded and cool even in summer.

Walking along the rather wet tracks after a few downpours in late December of last year, I was enjoying the birdsong and being mindful of the muddiness underfoot when something caught my eye to the left of the path in an area where some chainsawing of fallen branches and trees had been undertaken by council earlier in the season. It was one of those times when you see something in your peripheral vision which seems somewhat familiar and you have to quickly decide whether or not it is worth investigating.

Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa is a slime mould on large pieces of decaying timber in the Foote sanctuary and this is what I at first thought I had seen. The lush whiteness and undulating surface was fairly typical of the slime mould, however it also looked strangely frilly and that made me curious enough to take a closer look..

From close up it was just marvellous! It certainly was a crust fungus which I had never seen before – a

generously formed resupinate fungus with ruffled edges deeply settled into a large piece of cut red cedar trunk. I took a few photos with my phone and started doing a little research on my find. Once home, I narrowed my find's identity down to likely being *Irpex latemarginatus* (formerly *Oxyporus latemarginatus*). I then checked our FoQ's on the QMS website to confirm that we did not have one on record for the species.

I made a return visit to take some better photographs and to fill in as many details as I could in the Fungi of Queensland template. I then handed this information over to Patrick Leonard, who kindly examined the specimen under the microscope, confirmed identification of the species and completed the remaining details needed to publish the FoQ for *Irpex latemarginatus* on the QMS website.

Many thanks for your assistance Patrick.

Some info from Mycobank here:

Current name *Irpex latemarginatus* (Durieu & Mont.) C.C. Chen & Sheng H. Wu, Fungal Diversity 111:412 (2021) [MB#840774] Basionym *Polyporus latemarginatus* Durieu & Mont., Sylloge generum specierumque plantarum cryptogamarum: 163 (1856) [MB#449597] Obligate synonyms *Oxyporus latemarginatus* (Durieu & Mont.) Donk, Persoonia 4 (3): 342 (1966) [MB#335505] *Poria latemarginata* (Durieu & Mont.) Cooke, Grevillea 14 (72): 112 (1886) [MB#449531] *Rigidoporus latemarginatus* (Durieu & Mont.) Pouzar, Folia Geobotanica et Phytotaxonomica 1 (4): 368 (1966) [MB#338616]



Irpex latemarginatus © C. Thomas

Ghost fungus (*Omphalotus nidiformis*)

We have had some photos of *O. nidiformis* in the past, but I thought these were worth including. Charmaine Thomas photographed them after rain at Mary Cairncross in August 2024.



Fungarium

Charmaine Thomas, QMS librarian

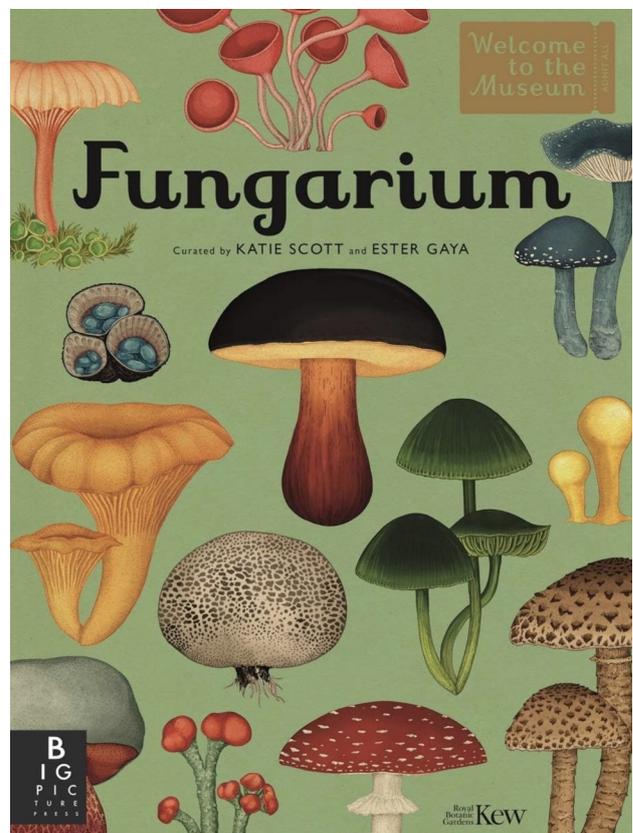
Fungarium - part of the 'Welcome to the museum' series which also includes titles such as Botanicum, Arboretum and Animalium, has been added to the QMS library.

Already proving to be a popular borrow since its arrival earlier this year, Fungarium was illustrated by Katie Scott in collaboration with the creative and scientific input of Kew - the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The publication, in A3 size, is visually impressive and full of important facts about the fungi we see quite commonly to those we see less often.

"It has been very satisfying to see the book checked out at meeting after meeting since its arrival and as it is returned - checked out again! It's really something which you want to get your hands on and not just see on a screen."

Come along to the monthly QMS meeting if you wish to see Fungarium and other titles available for loan to members of the society.



Pluteus chrysaegis



***Pluteus chrysaegis* © Patrick Leonard**

Cap: convex with a very irregular ridged and raised central umbo; 50 – 70 mm diameter; glabrous but matt; bright greenish yellow (1A6) to pale yellow (1A4); venose, overlain with irregular vein-like ridges that are brown becoming black and paler towards the rim, almost black in the ridged centre; margin shortly striate.

Stipe: cylindrical to slightly clavate downwards; 40 – 60 × 7 – 9 mm; glabrous; pale yellow at the apex and the base and almost white in the centre.

Gills: free; crowded; white; lamellulae in 2 series.

Flesh: thin, white, unchanging.

Smell: none.

Spore print: a rich pink.

Spores: globose to barely subglobose; 5.07 – 5.56 × 4.67 – 5.46 μm , average 5.35 \pm 0.17 × 5.04 \pm 0.23, Q = 1 – 1.17, average Q = 1.06 \pm 0.05; thin-walled.

Basidia: clavate; 18 – 23 × 6 – 8 μm .

Cheilocystidia: broadly lageniform; 75 – 95 × 20 – 25 μm ; thin-walled and not ornamented, but quite variable in size and shape.

Pleurocystidia: not observed.

Pileipellis: a hymeniderm of short erect hyphae 5 – 8 μm wide.

Habitat: growing on a mossy log near a creek in a wet sclerophyll forest that verges on rainforest with figs and palms present.

Notes: there are three yellow *Pluteus* species known in Australia: *P. pauperculus* is not veined and grows on *Nothofagus*, *P. hubregtseorum* f. *hubregtseorum* has a floccose stipe and *P. fenzlii* has an annulus. DNA sequencing (using the ITS marker) has shown this to be *Pluteus chrysaegis*, a fourth yellow species.

Collections examined: PL190324, Annie Hehir Reserve, Judith Hewett, 16 Mar 2024.

QUEENSLAND FUNGAL RECORD © Queensland Mycological Society

Original author: Patrick Leonard Last updated: 11 December 2024

Mary River Festival

Charmaine Thomas

Over the past few years, the Queensland Mycological Society has been invited to exhibit at the Mary River Festival. 2024 was no exception, and despite a dreary, cloudy start to the day on Saturday July 13th, it cleared up to deliver big blue skies and many visitors to the festival and our tent!

Wayne Boatwright, Richard Zivkov, Charmaine Thomas, Judith Hewett and Jennifer Hewett represented QMS on the day and community engagement levels were excellent. There were many interesting conversations, explanations of content and purchases of the Fungi brochures. A few new members were even signed up.

More on the Mary River festival can be found at:
<https://www.maryriverfestival.org.au/about-us>



Panus on Plywood

David Holdom

We were given some off-cuts of heavy non-structural plywood that I put to various uses, including a cover for our grease trap and a ramp to get the wheelbarrow past a step. Firstly the cover (August 2023) and then the ramp began to rot, and a fungal fruiting body grew out of both. Pat Leonard recognised the fungus as *Panus lecomtei*, which is normally found on logs and stumps. This seems like

a pretty unusual habitat, but other plywood at our old place in Brisbane also grew a crop of fungi not *Panus*). Those photos, from a few years ago, have unfortunately vanished into the labyrinth that is my hard drive.

P. lecomtei appears to occur around the world, but I wonder if the work has been done to confirm that?

The two photos immediately below are from the ramp, and the two below that are from less mature specimens photographed in 2023. There is another from this year on the cover of the newsletter.



Links, Links and More Links

Sherly Backhouse (Subtropical Fruit Club of Qld, <https://stfc.org.au/>) sends me a lot of fungi links and the following are those that are still active. I really appreciate her efforts.

First Nations PhD candidate leads the way on native fungi

So much traditional knowledge has been lost since Europeans arrived in Australia, and very little is known to the wider community. So I was delighted to learn that a First Nations woman, Sherie Bruce, is working toward a PhD on traditional uses of fungi in Australia. The wider dissemination of that knowledge should be of great interest to many mycologists.

<https://qaafi.uq.edu.au/article/2023/05/first-nations-phd-candidate-leads-way-native-fungi>

An interview on the ABC earlier this year about a new documentary:

https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/radionational-breakfast/the-secret-world-of-fungi/104297128?utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared

This one is close to my heart:

<https://phys.org/news/2023-12-scientists-bio-pesticide-fungi-beetle-eucalyptus.html>

Converting food waste back into food with fungi:

<https://www.miragenews.com/fungi-transform-food-waste-into-culinary-1305576/>

Article from ABC New Melbourne on Tom May:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-08-22/fungi-national-herbarium-of-victoria-royal-botanic-gardens/104223092>

Fungi that break down plastics. Sheryl sent the following from The UK's Independent Newspaper:

<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/other/scientists-discover-plastic-eating-fungi-that-could-help-clean-up-world-s-oceans/ar-AA1ovsZq>

I tried to find the source but got these instead:

<https://scitechdaily.com/scientists-discover-marine-fungus-that-can-eat-plastic/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-04-15/plastic-eating-fungi-discovery-raises-hopes-for-recycling-crisis/102219310>

Drunk from the inside: A story from Dr Karl:

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/blogs/dr-karl-need-to-know/2024/08/drunken-from-the-inside/>

The Last of Us highlights a 'zombie fungal pandemic'. Is the science real? This story was in the SMH in January 2023, but still worth reading. Some nice photos of insect fungi, and some warnings. There are dangerous fungal pathogens out there.

<https://www.smh.com.au/healthcare/tv-s-biggest-villain-is-an-apocalyptic-brain-eating-fungus-how-real-is-the-science-20230127-p5cfux.html>

This Current Affair from earlier in the year is still relevant, and a timely warning as our fungi season approaches.

<https://9now.nine.com.au/a-current-affair/experts-warning-as-interest-in-wild-mushroom-foraging-grows/dad33bc0-8e9c-4d03-89b7-98d7a18b7417>

Using fungi in buildings:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jul/18/namibia-homes-built-from-mushrooms-mycohab-mycelium>

Dr. Merlin Sheldrake on how fungi weaves the web of life:

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/drawingroom/dr-merlin-sheldrake-fungi-web-of-life/104160876>

Particle 101: Lichens

<https://particle.scitech.org.au/earth/particle-101-lichens/>

Saunas Could Help Frogs Survive Deadly Fungal Threat

<https://www.miragenews.com/saunas-could-help-frogs-survive-deadly-fungal-1285291/>

Newly named psychedelic fungus points to African origins of world's most popular 'magic mushroom'

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2024-12-16/new-african-species-reveals-magic-mushroom-origin-psychedelic/104716576>