FNCV FUNGAL FORAY: UPPER YARRA RESERVOIR PARK, REEFTON, Sunday 28 May, 2006

The aim of this series of fungal forays is to increase recognition of fungal species in the field.

A cool Sunday morning greeted a joint FNCV Fungi Group/Juniors fungi foray at Upper Yarra Dam. Following a blast on the whistle we left the Water Wheel car park, made our way to the bridge which was over a very small Yarra River, and started our search along the Doctors Creek walking track. It was very disturbing to see the enormous damage caused by deer with almost complete destruction of the under-storey in many places and even damage to large eucalypts and acacias.

The Juniors with their many keen eyes kept Fungi Group members busy with "come and look at this" and answering questions "what is this one?". In the short distance we covered, these same eyes helped us find lots of fungi.

Fig. 1. *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*
Photo: © Paul George

Fallen logs provided a variety of species and the bright gold of Golden Curtain Crust *Stereum ostrea* attracted early attention and was wide spread, sometimes colonising whole logs. We also found a big display of the grey, soft Toothed Jelly *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum* (see Fig. 1) with its distinctive white teeth on the lower surface, and close to a rotting log was a small Pagoda Fungus *Podoserpula pusio* with the tiered, creamy-pink caps formed on a common stem. On another was a large cluster of *Galerina patagonica*. This species has smooth, orange-brown caps, decurrent gills (with a tooth) and a small ring on the stem. This fungus has an interesting distribution, being found in South America (as the name suggests) and in New Zealand.

Rotting wood and litter provided a variety of *Mycena* species including *M. kurramulla* (see Fig. 2) with red edging to decurrent white gills and found on logs, *M. kuurkacea* Group (see Fig. 3) which also have a red edging to the gills but grows in litter and does not have decurrent gills. Both species 'bleed' a red-brown fluid when the stem is broken. 'Tiny White Mycenas' were plentiful on logs, stumps and litter. Of these only *M. maldea* could be identified with a nitric smell and lots of small criniform stipes emerging from small pieces of litter.

Strikingly-coloured fungi included groups of Green Skinhead *Dermocybe austroveneta*, Splendid Red Skinhead *Dermocybe splendida* with paprika-red gills and the bright slimy-capped purple *Cortinarius archeri*.

Fig. 2. *Mycena kurramulla*
Photo: © Paul George

Fig. 3. *Mycena kuurkacea*
Photo: © Paul George

After a welcome lunch the group made a collection of a *Hebeloma* – probably *H. victoriense*. There were a number of groups of this species growing on the ground in association with native plant species. The large size, cream to buff cap, pink gills, ring and torn veil remnants on the cap margin helped with identification. This collection was made in response to the request from Dr Bettye Rees, a NSW mycologist, for specimens and photos to help with her study into this genus. *Hebeloma* usually have cream-coloured somewhat viscid caps and resemble Agarics in general appearance. Some species e.g. the Poison-pie *H. crustuliniforme* are imports and are known from overseas descriptions. However our local species are not well known – one exception being the Ghoul Fungus *H. aminophilum* which is associated with decaying animal carcases. Bettye Rees' study will eventually provide a key to this genus.

A couple of fascinating discoveries were made towards the end of the day, when two different types of 'bird's nest' fungi were found. The first, *Nidula emodensis* group (see Fig. 4) were tiny pale woolly cups containing pale brown discs or 'eggs' (called peridioles, which contain the spores). The sides of the cups were somewhat v-shaped, which distinguishes them from *N. niveotomentosa*, which has parallel sides. Two fruitbodies were found on a small piece of very rotten wood.

Fig. 4. *Nidula emodensis* group
Photo: © Paul George

Finally, as we were about to leave, over fifty small black cups (somewhat larger than the *Nidula*) were found in the gravel and wood mulch of the car park. The inside of these cups was smooth leaden-grey and within the cups are clusters of flattened black ‘eggs’. A few young cups were covered with pale woolly lids. The smooth interior of the caps suggests that this was probably *Cyathus stercoreus* (see Fig. 4) - reportedly a very common fungus in Australia, although easily overlooked due to its small size.

With both *Nidula* and *Cyathus* spp. the spores are dispersed by the action of raindrops falling into the cups and splashing out the ‘eggs’. This mechanism helps ensure that the spores are dispersed when the conditions are most suitable for germination. *Cyathus* spp. can be identified by the small threads that attach the peridioles to the cup. They often grow in large colonies. *Nidula* spp. on the other hand, are generally found in much fewer numbers, are smaller in stature and the eggs are held in the cup by a sticky gel.

Ed Grey & Paul George

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Upper Yarra Reservoir Park, Reefton

Vegetation: Eucalypt forest: Manna Gum, Grey Gum and Messmate Stringybark with Silver Wattle, Prickly Currant Bush and Tree Ferns.

GPS reading at carpark: 37^0 40' 23" S; 145^0 52' 59" E

Table sorted into alphabetical order

No = sequential numbering of species as they were found; **T** = Fungimap Target species; **S** = specimens taken for further examination

See Fungi Group CD = Field Naturalists Club of Victoria - Fungi Group CD 2005
See FDU p. # = *Fungi down under: the Fungimap guide to Australian fungi* by Pat Grey and Ed Grey. Fungimap 2005
See Fuhrer # = *A field guide to Australian fungi* by Bruce Fuhrer. Blooming Books 2005
See McCann p. # = *Australian fungi illustrated* by I. R. McCann. MacDown Productions 2003
See Willis p. # = *Victorian Toadstools and Mushrooms* by J.H. Willis. FNCV 1963.

No	C	T	Type	Species	Description	Substrate
53			gill	*Agaricus augustus*	**See Fuhrer # 1**.	Ground
72			gill	*Amanita grisella* var. *luteolovelata*	Cap very dark grey-brown with dirty beige universal veil on cap; stem white with swollen base; ring pale yellow. **See Fuhrer # 9**.	Ground
86			gill	*Amanita ochrophylla*	**See Fungi Group CD**.	Grass
66			gill	*Amanita* sp. 'grey cap'		Ground
58		**T**	pore	*Amauroderma rude*	'Red Staining Polypore'. Black, and very old but still with the distinctive shape and texture. **See FDU p.63**.	Wood
10		**T**	gill	*Armillaria luteobubalina*	'Australian Honey Fungus'. **See FDU p.23**.	
61			gill	*Austropaxillus infundibuliformis*	Orange, velvet, deeply funnel-shaped cap. **See Fungi Group CD; Fuhrer # 275**.	Ground
31			asco	*Barya agaricicola*	Small yellow cones on old agaric (in moss, possibly *Galerina hypnorum*) on fallen log. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Old agaric on log
62			disc	*Bisporella citrina*	Small, bright yellow discs on wood. **See Fungi Group CD; Fuhrer # 470**.	Wood
19			pore	*Boletus barragensis*	Cap deep red; tubes yellow with red pore openings; stem red. There did appear to be fine reticulations on the stem. **See McCann p.60; Fuhrer # 288**.	Ground

No	C	T	Type	Species	Description	Substrate
60			jelly	*Calocera* sp.	Staghorn; just a few small, fine yellow spikes. **See McCann p. 9; Fuhrer # 450**.	Log
47			disc	*Chlorociboria aeruginascens* group	Sea-green discs on wood. **See Fungi Group CD; Fuhrer # 474**.	Wood
23			coral	*Ramariopsis simplex* (was *Clavaria amoena*)	Yellow tongues. **See Fungi Group CD; Fuhrer # 302**.	Ground
15			coral	*Clavicorona piperata* group	**See Fungi Group CD**.	
41			gill	*Clitocybe clitocybioides*	Pale; cap pink-cream, greasy, depressed; gills slightly decurrent; stem white; smell sweetish. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Soil
67			gill	*Clitocybe paraditopa* (*Clitocybe* from Greek Klitos=sloping; cybe=head)	Grey; cap 35 mm, flat to slightly depressed, dingy grey/brown, hygrophanous; gills decurrent, close, shallow, white; stipe 30 mm, cylindrical, flattened towards base, translucent ash-grey, paler near gills; odour ?wattle blossom, aniseed. **See Willis p.39**.	Mulch
81			gill	*Clitocybe semiocculta*	Cream, bleach smell.	Wood
54			gill	*Collybia eucalypti*		Upright trunk
5			gill	*Coprinus* sp.	Very plicate cap - bit too big to be *Parasola plicatilis.*	Ground
75			gill	*Coprinus* sp. 'very tiny *niveus*'		Deer dung
4			gill	*Cortinarius abnormis*	Cap yellow-brown wavy. **See Fuhrer # 46**.	Ground near eucalypt
48			gill	*Cortinarius archeri*	'Emperor Webcap'. Deep purple and very slimy when young. **See Fungi Group CD; McCann p.15; Fuhrer # 48**.	Soil
12		**T**	gill	*Cortinarius rotundisporus* 'small'	'Elegant Blue Webcap.' **See FDU p.30**.	Ground
30			gill	*Cortinarius* sp. aff. *violaceus*	**See Fuhrer # 58**.	
49			gill	*Crepidotus* sp.	Pale brown shells on fallen log.	Wood
59			disc	*Cudoniella pezizioidea*	Dirty, greyish white discs, overlapping, on small wood. **See Fungi Group CD; McCann p. 113; Fuhrer # 484**.	Piece of bark
85			birdnest	*Cyathus stercoreus*	Small unopened 'nests' fawn & hairy; outside hairy, dark hairs at top, pale below, chalice-shaped; when opened the 'eggs' are very dark; inside of cup is smooth. **See Fuhrer # 342,** *Nidula* sp. in jelly.	Ground of car park
11		**T**	gill	*Dermocybe austroveneta*	'Green Skinhead'. (*Dermocybe* Greek - Dermo=skin; cybe = head). **See FDU p.34**.	Ground nr carpark, in forest
80			gill	*Dermocybe* sp. 'red/orange cap'		Ground
57		**T**	gill	*Dermocybe splendida*	Several groups of huge specimens, bright red cap and paprika gills. **See FDU p.35**.	Soil

No	C	T	Type	Species	Description	Substrate
16			gill	*Descolea recedens*	Cap dark brown with yellow scales; stem brown with pleated striate ring halfway down. **See Fungi Group CD; McCann p.36; Fuhrer # 81**	Ground
65			disc	*Discinella terrestris*	Pale yellow discs on soil. **See Fungi Group CD; Fuhrer # 488**.	Soil
56			gill	*Entoloma moongum*	Dark blue cap and stem; white gills.	Ground
29			gill	*Galerina* aff. *unicolor*	Cap convex, tan, smooth greasy feel, margin translucent-striate; stem, thin dark hollow, rough; ring membranous, skirt-like. **See Fuhrer # 93**.	Wood
13			gill	*Galerina hypnorum*	Moss Head. Tiny orange species; numerous, found on almost all moss covered logs. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Moss
73			gill	*Galerina nana*	Tiny brown agaric; caespitose growth; spore print dark brown; cap 20 mm, convex with prominent disc-like lens-umbo, sticky, margin translucent-striate, flesh very thin; gills decurrent tooth, fairly widely spaced, brown; stipe 25 mm pale at top, black.	Litter
50			gill	*Galerina patagonica*	Numerous caramel caps. **See Fuhrer # 92**.	Fallen log
8			pore	*Ganoderma australe*	Tan spore covering visible hymenial surface. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Stump near creek
22			earthstar	*Geastrum indicum*	Pale thick rays with spore sac in saucer-shaped cavity. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Ground
84			gill	*Hebeloma* sp.	Doctors Creek Walk.	Ground
78	**1**		gill	*Hebeloma victoriense*	In arcs and circles in grass around trees. Several groups.	Ground
51			gill	*Hypholoma fasciculare*	'Sulphur Tuft'. Cap brick-red with white veil remnants; gills yellowish. Looks like sp. in **Fuhrer # 137**.	Buried wood
3			gill	*Laccaria* sp.	Cap tan; gills pale; stem pink-brown, hollow. Gill colour and stem width critical in id. of *Laccaria.*	Mulch
37			gill	*Lactarius eucalypti*	Gills exude milky white substance; cap chestnut red; gills cream, slightly decurrent; stem red-brown. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Ground
18			gill	*Lepiota* sp. 'fine hairy, black scales'	?*L. aspera*. **Fuhrer # 157**.	Ground
79			gill	*Lepiota* sp. 'small with dark scales'	Dark scales especially in centre; droplets at base of stem.	Ground
21			gill	*Leucopaxillus eucalyptorum*	**See Fuhrer # 168**.	
76			puffball	*Lycoperdon pyriforme*	**See Fungi Group CD**.	Wood
33			gill	*Marasmiellus candidus*	White convoluted caps; dark stems; few gills, anastomosing. **See Fuhrer # 177**.	Wood

No	C	T	Type	Species	Description	Substrate
28		**T**	gill	*Marasmius elegans*	'Velvet Parachute'. Lots of fruit bodies everywhere in all stages. **See FDU p.44**.	
40			gill	*Marasmius* sp. 'horsehair small'	Cap with bulges (*M. ?alveolaris*). **Fuhrer # 179**.	Litter
64			puffball	*Morganella subincarnata*	**See McCann p. 101**.	Wood
34			gill	*Mycena cystidiosa*	Numerous criniform stipes could be seen. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Litter
46			gill	*Mycena kurramulla*	Cap dusky pink on wood; gills arcuate with brown edge. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Log
35			gill	*Mycena kuurkacea* group	Bleeding Mycena. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Litter
20			gill	*Mycena maldea*	Bleach smell; minute white cap, gills, stem; white rhizomorphs. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Litter
24			gill	*Mycena* sp. 'minute white'		Eucalyptus nut
27			gill	*Mycena vinacea*	**See Fungi Group CD**.	Ground
6		**T**	gill	*Mycena viscidocruenta*	'Ruby Bonnet'. Several groups of specimens both in open and in forest. **See FDU p.50**.	In litter,
82			birdnest	*Nidula emodensis* group	Tiny brown cups with dark brown 'seeds'. The sides of the cups look v-shaped, distinguishing this from *N. niveotomentosa*. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Litter
45			gill	*Oudemansiella (Xerula) radicata*	'Rooting Shank'. Very tall; cap brown wrinkled; gills white; stem brown with white tomentum. **See FDU p.54**.	Ground
38			gill	*Paxillus* sp	Cap pale yellow, inrolled rim; gills decurrent.	Ground
74			gill	*Pluteus atromarginatus*	**See Fuhrer # 241**.	Litter
69			gill	*Pluteus cervinus* group	Cap (40 mm) very dark brown, with very dark brown hairs (velvety); gills free, white, crowded, turning pink with spores; stem easily detached, white with brown hairs; basal mycelium white; spore print pinky-brown. **See Fuhrer # 242**.	Mulch
36			leather	*Podoscypha petalodes*	Leathery brown growing like a rosette of petals on buried wood. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Wood
63			leather	*Podoserpula pusio*	'Pagoda Fungus'. **See FDU p.61**.	Ground
26		**T**	jelly	*Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*	'Toothed Jelly'. **See FDU p.82**.	Fallen log
25			gill	*Psilocybe subaeruginosa*	Cap (50 mm), tan, convoluted; gills pale yellow; stem white staining blue; spore print purple-black. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Mulch/forest floor
1			coral	*Ramaria lorithamnus* group	Formed fairy ring, yellow, branched, brittle; ageing to tan; tips blunt often coloured brown; the type of branching differentiates it from *Ramariopsis crocea*, also the brown spore print. **See McCann p.87**.	Ground

No	C	T	Type	Species	Description	Substrate
77			coral	*Ramaria* sp. 'grey'		Ground
			coral	*?Ramaria* sp. ‘spiky yellow’	Note the U-shaped divisions and spiky tops. *Ramaria* groups have a brown spore print.	
32			gill	*Rhodocollybia* aff. *butyracea*	Buttercap, greasy feel to brown cap, contrasts with white, close gills; stem typical. **See Fuhrer # 34,** under *Collybia.*	Ground
7			gill	*Rhodocollybia* sp. 'dark cap'	Cap dark purplish-brown.	Mulch
71			gill	*Rickenella fibula*	Little Pin. Tiny orange species with decurrent gills, always in moss on the ground. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Moss
17			gill	*Russula clelandii* group	Purple cap, white gills & stem. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Soil
52			gill	*Russula* sp. 'brownish orange with brown dimple'		Ground
39			pore	*Ryvardia campyla*	Weeping Polypore. Overlapping brackets from one base, with amber droplets on brown cap; pores white below. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Tree trunk
9			earthball	*Scleroderma* sp.	Yellow earth ball.	Ground
14		**T**	leather	*Stereum ostrea*	‘Golden Curtain Crust’. Masses of it glowing in the forest. **See FDU p.79**.	Wood
68			gill	*Stropharia aurantiaca*	Brick-red caps with scales around the margin of the cap. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Mulch
2			gill	*Stropharia semiglobata*	**See Fungi Group CD**.	Ground on decayed dung
43			pore	*Trametes versicolor*	Zones of colour on top; yellow pores beneath. **See Fungi Group CD**.	Wood
44			jelly	*Tremella frondosa*	‘Witches Butter’. Brown, leafy jelly. **See McCann p.87; Fuhrer # 456**.	Wood
55		**T**	jelly	*Tremella fuciformis*	‘White Barin’. **See FDU p. 83**.	Log
42			gill	*Tricholomopsis rutilans*	‘Plums and Custard’. Gilled fungi on wood/ground with ‘hairy’ reddish-brown cap and yellow gills.	
83			truffle	*Zelleromyces* sp.	Small, spherical, orange, convoluted inside with no indications of a stipe.	Ground
		T	coral	*Hericium coralloides*	‘Coral Tooth’. 29 May, seen at Upper Yarra Reservoir by Arthur Carew on wood	