

**FUNGI – DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE? ... Neil Tucker**

Well, it has been a good start to the season – a real autumn break like we haven't had for years. The farmers must be happy, although apprehensive about the forecast El Nino. All this wet weather while the ground has been warm has brought on good fungi growth. In my weekly forays, mostly down Lorne way where things happen earlier, I have been getting over 20 new records for the district each time. The tally for the Surf Coast Shire is now over 500 species and counting! Some of the more interesting ones this year have been:

- **Boletes** have been prominent this year – they are fungi with the shape of a normal mushroom, but with pores instead of gills. There were 3 species on the Cora Lyn Track. Another, at Moggs Creek, had white pores, and one at Fraser Ave had a sticky, orange cap with pink pores and a pitted stem. Here are 3 of them.



*Boletus erythropus*



*Boletus aff obscurecoccineus*



*Unknown bolete*

- There are several species of **Starfish** fungi, including *Pseudocolus* spp. They belong to the Stinkhorn group, and exude a smelly substance to attract flies, which then carry the spores around. Young *Psathyrellas* have wonderful punk hairdos, and Orange Ping-pong Bats *Favolaschia* is reputedly an introduced species.



*Pseudocolus fusiformis*



*Psathyrella echinata*



*Favolaschia calocera*

- Films and crusts come in some great colours.



*Nectria cinnabarina*



*Mycoacia subceracea*

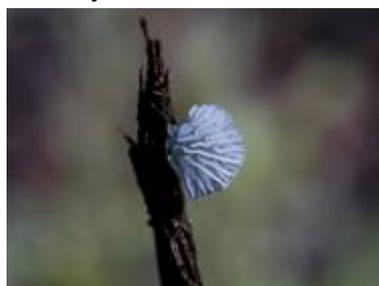


Unknown

- Tiny species have been prominent this year.



*Hyalopeziza aff alni & Stictis radiata*



*Lactarius genevieveae*



*Marasmiellus sp? on a leaf*