

Fungi

of the Surf Coast Shire



Supported by the ANGAIR fund.

When we think of life on Earth we tend to think of the plant and animal kingdoms, but there are whole other kingdoms too. Fungi comprise the largest of these – possibly 10 times as many species as plants. They occur in a bewildering variety of forms, have unusual life cycles and are often overlooked except when they appear as mushrooms on our plates or as rot attacking our buildings, food or toes (Tinea is caused by a fungus). The main body of a fungus is an extensive network of fine threads called hyphae that penetrate the soil, plant cells or other hosts. The part we see is just the fruiting body (equivalent to a flower on a plant).

Without fungi, the Earth would be uninhabitable – dead plants and animals would not decompose but continue to accumulate on the forest floor. Most species of plants have fungi living with them, particularly on their roots, passing nutrients from the soil to the plant and receiving energy in the form of sugars from the plant. Orchid seeds require fungi to germinate and we use fungi for many purposes too – bread and alcohol from yeasts, antibiotics, dyes and detergents to name a few.

Fungi classification is based on the spore-bearing structures (for which a microscope is needed), but their fruiting bodies can be categorized into useful groups. Some have a typical mushroom shape with gills or pores, some appear as clusters of fingers, or cups, brackets, lumps of jelly or puffballs. Lichens are fungi that have formed relationships with algae or cyanobacteria. This brochure also briefly covers some related groups. Slime moulds are not true fungi - at times they move around like amoebas whilst at other stages they produce masses of powdery spores like fungi. One cyanobacterium (blue-green alga) is also included, *Nostoc commune* (Witch's jelly) that may be mistaken for a fungus. Little brown mushrooms are notoriously difficult to identify and are beyond the scope of this publication. *Inocybe*, *Laccaria*, *Descolea*, *Entoloma* and many others can appear similar. Refer to the ANGAIR website for details and photos of more of the many fungi found locally.

Over 600 species of fungi have been identified from the Surf Coast Shire so this brochure is just an introduction. Fruiting starts in earnest after the autumn rains and continues through winter, with fewer to be seen in the dry of summer. The wetter forests of the Otway Ranges house the greatest variety, but there are also many in the drier Eastern Otways forests (see the map on the back). Different tree species host their own species of fungus, so check out different habitats, hosts and seasons.

Is it edible? Most fungi are small, most are insipid or acrid, and some are poisonous or hallucinogenic. No treatment will make them safe to eat. Unless you know your species well, buy your mushrooms at the supermarket. A permit is required to pick any fungi from public land. Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26.

Under each picture in this brochure, the first figure is the height or thickness, the second is the diameter of a typical specimen. The letter refers to its substrate (see the back page for codes) and the coloured rectangle indicates the fruiting body type (see the top of each page for codes).

References: *Fungi Down Under*: Grey & Grey 2005. *A Field Guide to Australian Fungi*: Fuhrer 2009. *A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi*: Gates and Ratkowski 2014. *The Fungi CD*: Field Naturalists Club of Victoria 2008. Many www sites, including Mycobank www.mycobank.org.

Contacts and Web sites:

ANGAIR: ANGAIR Natural History Centre, 3C McMillan Street, Anglesea, 3230, Phone: 5263 1085, admin@angair.org.au, www.angair.org.au.

Fungimap: Private Bag 2000, South Yarra 3141, info@fungimap.org.au, www.fungimap.org.au.

Atlas of Living Australia: www.ala.org.au.

Agarics



Horse Mushroom

Agaricus arvensis

8cm 20cm S



Yellow Stainer

Agaricus xanthodermus

7cm 11cm S



Australian Flour Lepidella

Amanita farinacea

10cm 5cm S



Fly Agaric

Amanita muscaria

10cm 12cm S



Vermilion Grisette

Amanita xanthocephala

6cm 3cm S



Orange Fan

Anthracophyllum archeri

5mm 12mm W



Australian Honey Fungus

Armillaria luteobubalina

12cm 5cm W



Shy Funnel-cap

Clitocybe semiocculta

10mm 15mm W



Fairy Bonnet

Coprinellus disseminatus

3cm 1.5cm W



Shaggy Cap/Lawyer's Wig

Coprinus comatus

10cm 3cm S



Emperor Webcap

Cortinarius archeri

10cm 10cm S



Green Skinhead

Cortinarius austrovenetus

10cm 5cm S

■ Agarics



Elegant Blue Webcap
Cortinarius rotundisporus
7cm 5cm S ■



Eucalyptus Ear
Crepidotus eucalyptorum
1cm 2cm W ■



Ruby Bonnet
Cruentamycena viscidocruenta
3cm 0.5cm L ■



Snowy Waxcap
Cuphophyllus virgineus
2cm 2.5cm S ■



Dark Blue Pinkgill
Entoloma moongum
5cm 2.5cm S ■



Moss Bell
Galerina hypnorum
3cm 1cm M ■



Slimy Green Waxcap
Gliophorus graminicolor
3cm 1.5cm S ■



Ghoul Fungus
Hebeloma aminophilum
7cm 5cm S ■



Droplet Woodwax
Hygrophorus involutus
15mm 8mm S ■



Saffron Milkcap
Lactarius deliciosus
10cm 10cm S ■



Wood Blewit
Lepista nuda
10cm 15cm S ■



Belly Button
Lichenomphalia chromacea
2cm 1cm S ■

Agarics



Slender Parasol
Macrolepiota clelandii
15cm 9cm S



Little Stinker
Marasmiellus affixus
3mm 10mm W



Velvet Parachute
Marasmius elegans
4cm 3cm S



Fairy Ring Mushroom
Marasmius oreades
3cm 2cm S



Wiry Bonnet
Mycena cystidiosa
10cm 1.5cm L



Yellowlegs Bonnet
Mycena epipterygia
5cm 1.5cm W



Pixie's Parasol
Mycena interrupta
5mm 5mm W



Nargan's Bonnet
Mycena nargan
4cm 1cm W



Tiny Blue Lights
Mycena sp
<1mm <1mm TFF



Ghost Fungus
Omphalotus nidiformis
13cm 10cm W



Austral Rooting Shank
Oudemansiella gigaspora
15cm 3cm S



Gilled Boletus
Phylloporus rhodoxanthus
8cm 10cm S

■ Agarics ■ Boletes



Fringed Brittlestem
Psathyrella aff pennata
4cm 2cm S ■



Gold Top
Psilocybe subaeruginosa
10cm 4cm L ■



Purple Brittlegill
Russula clelandii
5cm 8cm S ■



Orange Brittlegill
Russula flocktoniae
6cm 7cm S ■



Red Brittlegill
Russula persanguinea
6cm 6cm S ■



Splitgill
Schizophyllum commune
0.5cm 4cm W ■



Dung Roundhead
Stropharia semiglobata
8cm 1.5cm D ■



Snowy Tall Bolete
Austroboletus niveus
15cm 15cm S ■



Shaggy-cap Bolete
Boletellus ananiceps
14cm 10cm S ■



Rhubarb Bolete
Boletellus obscurecoccineus
15cm 8cm S ■



Marshmallow Bolete
Fistulinella mollis
6cm 4cm SW ■



Giant Bolete
Phlebopus marginatus
15cm 30cm S ■