

# **Fungimap Inc.**

**Reg. No. A0047228L**

**Annual Report  
Year Ending 31 December 2010**

# FUNGIMAP - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Year ending 31 December 2010

At the end of 2010, there were 215 paid up members (119 full, 70 concessional and 26 associate) which was an increase over the 174 members for 2009. Membership has thus returned to the level in 2008 (212 members), which is a pleasing result, because membership increases are usually greater in the Conference year (which was 2009). Fungimap has members from all states and the Northern Territory, as well as some overseas members.

In June, Fungimap farwelled Lee Speedy after two years as the Fungimap Coordinator. During the first half of the year Lee dealt with a wide variety of tasks including book sales and ordering and support for office volunteers. After Lee's departure, the position was temporarily placed on hold for the remainder of the year. This resulted in significant cost savings, but also an increased workload for volunteers in the Fungimap office and for the committee. A break in the continuity of the Fungimap Coordinator position has occurred on several occasions in the past. Whilst there are financial advantages, it is not a sustainable practice in the long term, because of the increased load on volunteers and the disruption to both day to day operations and to forward planning for activities such as conferences.

The Fungimap VI Conference will be held in Denmark in south-west Western Australia in July 2011, jointly organised with the Western Australian Field Naturalists Club. The Conference Organising Subcommittee comprises Sapphire McMullan-Fisher (chair), Joe Froudish, Roz Hart, Jolanda Keeble, Dawn Pedro, Lee Speedy (until June) and Katie Syme. The Subcommittee met regularly and preparations for the Conference are well underway, including confirmation of the venue as the Denmark College of Agriculture.

In the year in between Conferences Fungimap has traditionally held a low-key 'get-together' of the committee, to allow a face-to-face committee meeting (given that committee members are spread around Australia). In past years, this get together has been tied to expeditions and/or to relatively small scale talks and workshops. In 2010 the get together turned into a major activity in north-eastern Tasmania: 'Hidden treasures: discovering the fungi of the Blue Tier'. Sarah Lloyd (Central North Field Naturalists) and Katie Syme did much of the organising of the Blue Tier activities and financial support was provided by NRM North. The event was based in the town of Weldborough and included forays and workshops as well as an expedition to collect and document the fungi of the Blue Tier. More than 50 people attended the talks and workshops, and activities were also organised for 40 primary and secondary school students from the nearby town of St Helens. The Blue Tier event turned out to be quite similar in scope and format to the full-blown Conference that we hold every two years, the major difference being that attendees were responsible for their own food and accommodation and the workshops were at a more general level. The success of the Blue Tier activities opens up the possibility of more events, given suitable financial and logistical support at the local level.

Five new target species were 'launched' in 2010 (*Entoloma viridomarginatum*, *Filoboletus manipularis*, *Marasmiellus affixus*, *Podaxis beringamensis* and *Porodisculus pendulus*). Fungimap records continue to be submitted, with a total of 35,898 records logged in the Fungimap database at the end of 2010. These include the target species themselves but also records of non-target species, particularly from foray lists compiled by fungi interest groups, such as the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Fungi Group. Some 4,507 records were added in 2010, which is an increase over the 2009 total of 3,215. However, there is a discrepancy between the figure at the end of 2009 as provided in the last annual report (32,814) and that used to calculate the 2010 figures (31,391). This highlights deficiencies in the reports used in the database and in the underlying programming. All original data is held on file in the Fungimap office and the overall quality of the data in the database is reasonably high. Nevertheless, considerable repairs and updates to the database which holds the Fungimap

records are required. One example is making sure that each field is used only for the specific data it is intended (using a controlled set of options).

The Fungimap bookshop provides a service to members and is also an important source of funds, contributing about half of the income of the organisation in years when there is no conference. The Fungimap publication *Fungi Down Under* continues to sell steadily, with wholesale sales making up more than half the income from sales of the book. Of books and other items sold, around 80% of the income comes from *Fungi Down Under*.

Three issues of *Fungimap Newsletter* were prepared in 2010: issue 40 appeared in April (16 pp) and issue 41 in October (20 pp and two page colour insert), while the final issue for the year (42) was not distributed until January 2011 (16 pp and four page colour insert). A change introduced this year was the move from a single colour issue per year to use of colour pages in several issues. Sarah Lloyd very kindly laid out and printed the colour pages and this significant support from Sarah and the Central North Field Naturalists is much appreciated. The colour section in issue 41 showcased interesting and beautiful fungi from Blue Tier and the colour pages in issue 42 highlighted the new target species.

The *Newsletter* continued as a venue for reports from fungi groups around Australia and also included a mix of short reports on interesting fungi or locations for foraging and articles about particular groups of fungi. The comprehensive calendar of fungi forays and other activities around Australia was printed only in the first issue for the year, and thereafter was kept up-to-date on the Fungimap website. The *Newsletter* was edited by Pam Catcheside and Tom May. Pam carried out much of the organisation behind the *Newsletter*, especially soliciting articles and information for the calendar of events and also doing the initial layout, which was finalised by Tom.

A *Fungimap Bulletin* was issued in April 2010, including articles on the choice of target species and phenology recording. The *Bulletin* was introduced as an irregular publication for issues and ideas beyond those dealt with in *Fungimap Newsletter*, and was made available through the Fungimap website.

Two committee meetings were held during the year, in March and May. All committee members were present at each meeting, and the whole committee actively contributed to the running of Fungimap. Exchanges of emails were used to deal with issues arising between meetings, where formal motions were required.

Volunteers are a vital part of Fungimap, both through the submission of records and images, but also in the Fungimap office. John Carpenter, Wendy Cook, Geoff Lay and Graham Patterson continued to provide support in the office, such as dealing with book orders, membership renewals, enquiries about the identity of fungi and logging and databasing records (especially over the period when there was no Fungimap Coordinator). Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne continued to provide valuable assistance in hosting the Fungimap office and employed the Coordinator on behalf of Fungimap.

For 2010 there was a surplus of \$6,302. This represents a significant turnaround from 2009, when there was a loss of around \$1500. A decrease of expenditure on the Fungimap Coordinator (a combination of reducing to one day a week and the gap in the position) was the major contributing factor to the surplus, but there was also additional income from the Blue Tier activities as well as from the increase in donations and in membership numbers. The Austral Fungi Fund is the special fund that receives tax deductible donations under the Deductible Gift Recipient status granted to Fungimap. In 2010 donations to the Austral Fungi Fund totaled \$2,156, which is a significant increase over the 2009 donations of \$266. There was no expenditure from the Fund.

In 2011, the aim will be to build on the foundation of a financially successful Fungimap VI Conference to support continual employment of a part-time Fungimap Coordinator (2 days per week) and to seek additional funding for special projects related to the records database and publications.

**Tom May, President**