

Fungimap Inc.

Reg. No. A0047228L

**Annual Report
Year Ending 31 December 2009**

FUNGIMAP - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Year ending 31 December 2009

At the end of 2009, there were 174 members (96 full, 58 concession and 20 associate). This is a significant decrease from the 212 members for the previous year, but the decline may in part be due to differences in the method of calculating membership (for this year's figures, only paid up members were counted). There is a high rate of retention of members from one year to the next; but some new members joined, particularly as a result of attending the Fungimap V Conference. Fungimap has members from all states and the Northern Territory, as well as some overseas members.

In the Fungimap office, the Fungimap Coordinator, Lee Speedy, dealt with a wide range of tasks, such as ensuring that books were ordered and providing assistance to volunteers. Lee's focus for the first half of the year was organising the Fungimap V Conference. After the completion of the Conferences, the Coordinator position was altered from two days per week to one day, in line with available finances.

The major event for the year was the Fungimap V Conference, held at Wallerawang in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales in May. The Conference was organised jointly with the Sydney Fungal Studies Group. The Fungimap V Conference Organising Committee comprised Paul George, Ray Kearney (representing SFSG), Teresa Lebel, Pam O'Sullivan, Lee Speedy (Chair) and Karl Vernes. The Conference was a great success, with 80 delegates along with 19 speakers and foray and workshop leaders. Thanks are due to Ray Kearney and Pam O'Sullivan, in particular, for doing so much of the on ground preparation in the area prior to the Conference and to Lee Speedy for all her work on logistics and organisation that made the Conference run smoothly for delegates.

Debriefs from Fungimap V were prepared by Lee Speedy and Tom May, and a brief prepared for the next conference. The Committee agreed to hold the Fungimap VI Conference in south-west Western Australia in July 2011, jointly with the Western Australian Field Naturalists Club. A Fungimap VI Conference Organising Subcommittee was appointed with Sapphire McMullan-Fisher as chair, and consisting of Joe Froudist, Roz Hart, Jolanda Keeble, Dawn Pedro, Lee Speedy and Katie Syme.

The report from the 2008 Fungimap expedition to Kangaroo Island was finalised and submitted to the funding agencies that supported the expedition (the South Australian Wildlife Conservation Fund and Native Vegetation Fund). A total of 97 specimens were collected and a further 44 records of fungi were made.

The get together that Fungimap organises in the year in between the Conferences, to facilitate face-to-face meetings of the Committee, will be held in 2010 in Tasmania. Katie Syme and Sarah Lloyd (Central North Field Naturalists) are organising the get together and associated activities. Planning is well underway and funds have been secured from NRM North to support 'Hidden treasures: discovering the fungi of the Blue Tier'. This event will include forays and workshops as well as an expedition to collect and document the fungi of the Blue Tier.

Fungimap records continue to be submitted, with a total of 32,814 records logged in the Fungimap database at the end of the year. Some 3,215 records were entered in 2009, a significant increase over the total of 2,198 for 2008. Five new target species were 'launched' in 2009 (*Badimiella pteridophila*, *Heterodea muelleri*, *Nephroma australe*, *Psora decipiens* and *Xanthoparmelia semiviridis*). In addition, records of non-target species continue to be entered into the Fungimap database, particularly from foray lists compiled by fungi interest groups, such as the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Fungi Group.

The Fungimap bookshop provides a service to members and also an important source of funds, contributing about one third of income. The Fungimap publication *Fungi Down Under* continues to sell steadily. Retail sales decreased, but this was more than compensated by an increase in wholesale sales, direct to bookshops, as a result of a marketing campaign by the Fungimap Coordinator. *Fungi Down Under* was reprinted in January, which was a considerable expense for the organisation, but there was a resulting transfer of equity from cash to the book inventory. The replenished stock of *Fungi Down Under* enables continuation of income from book sales that is vital for the financial viability of Fungimap.

Three issues of *Fungimap Newsletter* were prepared in 2009, appearing in April (20 pp) and September (20 pp), with the colour issue (24 pp) not distributed until January 2010. The four-page colour section depicted new lichen target species and other colourful or interesting fungi. The *Newsletter* continues to provide comprehensive information about forays and other fungal activities, and is also a venue for reports from fungi groups around Australia. It also includes a mix of short reports on interesting fungi or locations for foraging and an increasing number of articles about particular groups of fungi. The option of seeking feedback from external referees was introduced, for those papers with technical content. The *Newsletter* was edited by Pam Catcheside, Tom May and Lee Speedy. Pam carried out much of the organisation behind the *Newsletter*, especially soliciting articles and information for the calendar of events and also doing the layout, and Lee organising the printing.

Fungimap made written submissions in response to the draft *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020* and in response to the Discussion paper on *A new Biodiversity Strategy for New South Wales*, providing the background document on *The conservation and management of fungi in New South Wales – issues and recommendations* that had been prepared in 2008 for the Fungi Initiative. Fungimap also commented on the omission of fungi from the report on *Australia's Hidden Treasures* prepared by WWF.

Three committee meetings were held during the year: two by telephone hook-up, and one face-to-face after Fungimap V in Wallerawang. All committee members were present at each meeting (except that John Carpenter was an apology for the May and September meetings), and the whole committee actively contributed to the running of Fungimap.

Volunteers continue to be 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 a wide range of support in the office, dealing with book orders, membership renewals, enquiries about the identity of fungi and logging and databasing records. In December, Lee Speedy organised a successful Christmas party for the Fungimap volunteers.

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne continued to provide valuable assistance in hosting the Fungimap office and employed the Coordinator on behalf of Fungimap.

The Austral Fungi Fund is the special fund that receives tax deductible donations under the Deductible Gift Recipient status granted to Fungimap. In 2009 donations to the Austral Fungi Fund totalled only \$266. There was no expenditure from the Fund. We need to raise the profile of the Austral Fungi Fund and encourage donations, which will be a priority in 2010.

In 2009 Fungimap made a loss of around \$1500. Such an annual loss is not sustainable in the long term. The organisation is doing well at delivering services to members as far as the newsletter and conferences, but there are still challenges in securing sufficient income (especially outside funding) to support the necessary co-ordination activities and to advance projects such as the Fact Sheet Database and to expand the website to its full potential.

Tom May, President