

Fungimap Inc.

Reg. No. A0047228L

**Annual Report
Year Ending 31 December 2011**

FUNGIMAP - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Year ending 31 December 2011

At the end of 2011, there were 247 paid up members (125 full, 91 concessional and 31 associate) compared to 2010 (215 members), 2009 (174) and 2008 (212). The significant increase in membership for 2011 coincides with an increase in activity for the organisation. Fungimap has members from all states, including Victoria (35%), New South Wales (18%), Tasmania (14%), Queensland (12%), Western Australia (12%) and South Australia (6.5%), as well as the A.C.T. and the Northern Territory, and some overseas members.

After the position being on hold for six months, a new Fungimap Coordinator (Blanche Higgins) was appointed in January. The main focus of work for the Coordinator during the year was organising for events: firstly Fungimap VI and then the 2012 Fungi Festival. Blanche also provided support for office volunteers, co-ordinated book sales and provided regular reports for the committee.

The major activity for 2011 was the Fungimap VI Conference, held in Denmark in south-west Western Australia in July, jointly organised with the Western Australian Field Naturalists Club. The Conference Organising Subcommittee comprised Sapphire McMullan-Fisher (chair), Joe Froudish, Roz Hart, Jolanda Keeble, Dawn Pedro, Lee Speedy (until June 2010), Blanche Higgins (from January), Katrina Syme and Kirsten Tullis. Fungimap VI was a great success, with 95 people attending and enjoying the wide range of talks, forays and workshops, including a day trip to the Valley of the Giants.

In the year between Conferences, Fungimap has traditionally organised a low-key gathering to facilitate face-to-face meetings of the Fungimap committee (given that committee members are spread across Australia). In 2010 a larger scale event was held at Blue Tier in Tasmania, which was similar in scope and format to the biennial Fungimap Conference (except that participants organised their own food and accommodation). Following an approach from NRM South in Tasmania, the natural resource management body for southern Tasmania, the concept of a Fungi Festival is being developed. The Festival will be held in April/May 2012 in Hobart, and will comprise a Symposium on the Conservation and Management of Fungi, a debate about eating wild fungi, and a series of workshops and forays. The main difference to Fungimap Conferences is that Festival participants can book for individual events. Fungi Festival 2012 is being organised jointly by Fungimap and NRM South and planning is well underway.

At the AGM in July, two long standing committee members who had been on the committee since incorporation in 2005 did not seek re-election: John Carpenter (Treasurer) and Pam Catchside (ordinary committee member), both of whom have been stalwart supporters of Fungimap over the last decade. John played a vital role in keeping track of finances and ensuring that necessary annual and other reporting was carried out (such as BAS statements). John was also heavily involved in drawing up the original constitution and oversaw the transfer of finances from the previous RBG Melbourne / FNCV system to independent Fungimap accounts and financial management software. Pam has been an active contributor to many facets of Fungimap, and her efforts in editing the *Newsletter* and organising the expedition to Kangaroo Island in 2008 are particularly appreciated.

The new committee elected at the AGM consisted of Tom May (President), Katrina Syme (Vice-President), Paul George (Secretary), and (by mistake) three ordinary committee members (Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, Geoff Lay and Roz Hart). Subsequent to the AGM, once the error in electing three ordinary committee members was noticed, Roz Hart resigned to bring the number of ordinary committee members to two as specified in the constitution. The position of Treasurer was vacant, and was filled in September by co-opting Gary Leete. In August, Sapphire McMullan-Fisher resigned from the Committee in order to allow for the possibility taking up a contract with Fungimap, and Kirsten Tullis was

co-opted onto the Committee. The current committee has members from Victoria and Western Australia. Four meetings were held during the year, in March, August, September and November. In addition, exchanges of emails were used to deal with issues arising between meetings, where formal motions were required.

For 2011 there was a financial surplus of \$149,814. This is by far the largest surplus for Fungimap, either as an incorporated organisation or in the period prior to incorporation, and thus some detailed explanation is in order.

Firstly, there were four grants totalling \$11,500 that were associated with the Fungimap VI Conference. Securing these grants was due to the hard work of the Fungimap VI Organising Committee, especially Katrina Syme, Dawn Pedro and Kirsten Tullis, in looking for opportunities to secure support for the various activities of the Conference. This is the first time that we have fully explored such opportunities, which exist due to factors such as bringing new visitors to regional centres (thus attracting support from the Great Southern Development Commission and Denmark Council) and provision of training to conference participants (which attracted support from the Feilman Family Foundation and South Coast NRM). The surplus for the Conference indicated in the accounts for 2011 does not include the grants, but also should be reduced by the salary for the Fungimap Coordinator, who spent a considerable proportion of her time for the first half of the year directly on Conference organisation. Taking this in to account, the Conference delivered a surplus of approximately \$15,000. This level of surplus enables employment of the Coordinator for the periods between Conferences, which is necessary because income from membership and book sales is otherwise not sufficient for continuous employment of a Coordinator.

Secondly, Fungimap received two large amounts during 2011: \$60,000 from the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and \$70,000 from the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Funding from ALA was via a contract whose purpose was to facilitate engagement between Fungimap and the ALA in order to mobilise Fungimap data (records, images and species descriptions) for dissemination through the ALA and parallel development of tools by the ALA that would facilitate such data mobilisation. To carry out the ALA/Fungimap engagement, Fungimap has engaged a Project Officer (Sapphire McMullan-Fisher), who commenced in November. Only \$9,000 from the ALA contract was spent in 2011, and the remainder will be expended in 2012.

The Commonwealth funding was to assist in the supply of Fungimap data for use in the Australian Natural Heritage Assessment Tool. This data has been provided, and the funds will continue to be used over the next few years for management of Fungimap data. To that end, a Fungimap Data Coordinator position was created at the end of 2011, and Alena Moison will take up that role in January 2012.

A number of subcommittees and working groups actively assisted with the workload in the Fungimap office and for the committee:

- (1) Fungi Festival 2012 organising subcommittee: Blanche Higgins (Chair), Gary Leete, Tom May, Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, David Ratkowsky and Magali Wright.
- (2) Fungimap VII organising subcommittee: Blanche Higgins (Chair), Paul George, Geoff Lay and Alison Pouliot.
- (3) Fungimap data and images subcommittee: Alena Moison (Chair from January 2012), Paul George, Geoff Lay and Sapphire McMullan-Fisher.
- (4) Fungimap conservation and biodiversity subcommittee: Tom May (Chair), Sapphire McMullen-Fisher and Alison Pouliot.
- (5) FDU2 working group (choosing new target species and preparing descriptions of them): Pam Catcheside and Tom May (Coordinators), Matthew Barrett, Thelma Bridle, Paul George, Geoff Lay, Teresa Label, Patrick Leonard, Heino Lepp, Sarah Lloyd, Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, Pam O'Sullivan, Richie Robinson, Katrina Syme and Kirsten Tullis.

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 considerable support in the office, such as dealing with book orders, membership renewals, enquiries about the identity of fungi and logging and databasing records. We were pleased to welcome a new volunteer, Caroline Barrett, who has been assisting with book orders and finances. Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne continued to provide valuable assistance in hosting the Fungimap office and employed the Coordinator and the Data Coordinator (from January 2012) on behalf of Fungimap.

Five new target species were 'launched' in 2011 (*Elaeomyxa cerifera*, *Geastrum pectinatum*, *Melanophyllum haematospermum*, *Simocybe phlebophora* and *Sphaerobolus stellatus*). Fungimap records continue to be submitted, with a total of 38,373 records logged in the Fungimap database at the end of 2011. Some 2,497 records were added in 2011, which is a significant decrease from the 2010 total of 4,507, but there is considerable variation from year to year (2009 increase was 3,215; 2008 increase was 2,198, for example). Records include not only 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.

Three issues of *Fungimap Newsletter* were prepared in 2011: issue 43 appeared in April (16 pp) and issue 44 in October (20 pp and two page colour insert), while the final issue for the year (45) was not distributed until January 2012 (16 pp and four page colour insert). During the year, Pam Catcheside stepped down as Editor of *Fungimap Newsletter*, after six years in this role, having provided much appreciated co-ordination of articles for the *Newsletter*, editing individual articles and designing layout. We were pleased to welcome Christina Hall as Editor from issue 44. The *Newsletter* reverted to a single issue each year with a printed colour insert (issue 45, highlighting the new target species) with colour available in all issues in the pdf version.

One *Fungimap Bulletin*, made available through the Fungimap website, was issued in September 2011. Bulletin 2 contained tables with lists of fungi recorded during forays at Fungimap VI and corresponding site details, to accompany the report in *Fungimap Newsletter* 44 by Sapphire McMullan-Fisher and Katrina Syme.

The Fungimap bookshop provides a service to members and in addition contributes about the same level of income as memberships, and is thus an important source of funds to the organisation; especially in years when there is no conference or grant income. The Fungimap publication *Fungi Down Under* continues to sell steadily, with most (70%) sales of the book being wholesale rather than retail. Of all books and other items sold, around 62% of income comes from *Fungi Down Under*, although this income must be balanced against the reduction in assets as the stock in hand of this publication is reduced.

The Austral Fungi Fund is the special fund that receives tax deductible donations under the Deductible Gift Recipient status granted to Fungimap. In 2011 donations to the Austral Fungi Fund totaled \$3,028, compared to \$2,156 in 2010 and \$266 in 2009. There was no expenditure from the Fund.

In 2012, the major objectives for Fungimap will be to: finalise the ALA/Fungimap engagement and deliver Fungimap data to the ALA; continue updating of data and images handling processes; commence planning for a second edition of *Fungi Down Under*; hold a successful Fungi Festival; and start planning for Fungimap VII (to be held in Victoria in 2013). For the first time since incorporation in 2005, Fungimap has sufficient resources to employ a part-time Coordinator on a continual basis, and the introduction of the Data Coordinator position will address long-standing issues about the Fungimap databases.

Tom May, President