

LOOK for our fungi

This is a quick guide to get you started on some of the local **Merri Creek** fungi. We recommend using the iNaturalist Fungimap Australia project (read more about this on the next page).



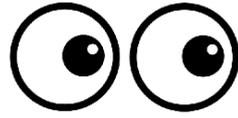
This guide includes some names and pictures of some of the fungi you should look out for. The most common group of easily seen fungi are the mushrooms called 'Agarics'. Followed by some other easily recognisable fungi that are not mushroom shapes. Then there is a spread of the 'Lost Fungi' for your region. Finally we share some information about protecting our bushlands.



Help us find our 'Lost Fungi'. Not all fungi are easily recognisable and some of them are rarely seen. These uncommon fungi are at greater risk than common fungi as they reproduce infrequently. For more information about the **Lost Fungi here** [https://fungimap.org.au/lost-fungi/](https://fungimap.org.au/lost-fungi/lost-fungi/)



Share your records



You need to have registered with iNaturalist and then add data to our project but anyone can see the data. This can be done through a computer online or smart devices using apps both android and apple.



Share images and records of recognisable fungi using our iNaturalist project:

www.inaturalist.org/projects/fungimap-australia

People are getting on to our iNaturalist project to identify photos submitted, including from the Fungimap ID team. You have to 'sign up' with iNaturalist and remember you are sharing data about your location. The photos need to be clear, and usually to show top and underside to have a chance of being identified. Several images may be needed. There is an identification algorithm that works well so always put your best identification shot first. It is also helpful to include a habitat shot so we get a sense of the local environment.

Research grade records contribute to the biodiversity data in the Atlas of Living Australia, our national biodiversity portal. Contributing fungi records means we will learn more about the biodiversity of fungi, where they are locally and how this might change over time.

Tips for clear images

Set the fungi up so that you can see as **many features** in one shot or take several images showing important features.

- Get close, use macro settings where possible
- Have good light without glare, use tripods, timers, diffuse lights in low light conditions
- Use Aperture-priority or image stacking modes

Other visible characters:

- Clusters or scattered
- On wood, mulch etc.

At least one image should include:

- Add size like a ruler or 5 cent piece 'echidna'
- A white point object like a label to help with digital colour corrections
- Mirrors can help with under surface shots
- Fungi habitat

Capture ephemeral features:

- Colour changes, milk etc.
- Stem base like discs etc.
- Veil remains, rings, volvas etc.

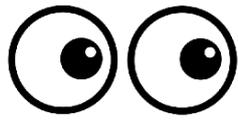


Clear gills

Ring & spore print

Upper surface

Spectacular Rustgill (*Gymnopilus junonius*, Eileen Laidlaw)



Agarics



Yellow Fieldcap (*Bolbitius titubans*, SJM McMullan-Fisher)



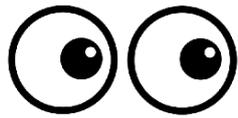
Graceful Parasol (*Macrolepiota clelandii*, Ngaruru CC-BY-NC)



Velvet Parachute (*Marasmius elegans*, Paul George)



Fairy Ring Marasmius (*Marasmius oreades*, SJM McMullan-Fisher)



Agarics



Yellow Stainer (*Agaricus xanthodermus*, SJM McMullan-Fisher)



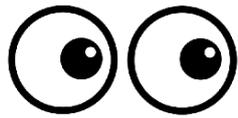
Chip Cherries (*Leratiomyces ceres*, Greg Holland CC-BY-NC)



Spiltgill (*Schizophyllum commune*, Eileen Laidlaw)



Stubble Rosegill (*Volvopluteus gloiocephalus*)



Ink caps - Agarics



Mica Cap (*Coprionellus micaceus*,
FunkeyTom CC-BY-NC)



Lawyer's Wig (*Coprinus comatus*,
Richard Hartland)

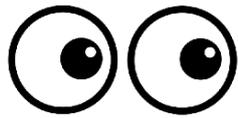


Hare's Foot Inkcap (*Coprionopsis lagopus*,
SJM McMullan-Fisher)



Pleated Inkcap (*Parasola plicatilis*,
SJM McMullan-Fisher)

Ink caps include genera *Coprinus*, *Coprionellus*, *Coprionopsis* and *Parasola* these have dark spores that may liquefy.



Other Fungi



Anemone Stinkhorn (*Asero rubra*,
Richard Hartland)



☹️ Weedy Red-cage
Fungus (*Clathrus ruber*, SJM
McMullan-Fisher)

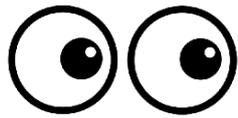


Giant Pasture
Puffball (*Mycenastrum corium*, SJM
McMullan-Fisher)



Dyeballs (*Pisolithus* species, SJM
McMullan-Fisher)

Mycenastrum and *Pisolithus* are both mycorrhizal partners of plants, probably with the trees and shrubs along the creek.



Other Fungi & Slime Moulds



Dog vomit* (*Fuligo septica*, SJM
McMullan-Fisher)



Southern Cinnabar Polypore
(*Pycnoporus coccineus*, SJM
McMullan-Fisher)

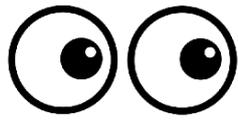


Wolf's milk* (*Lycogala epidendrum*,
SJM McMullan-Fisher)



Small Dung Button (*Poronia erici*,
Richard Hartland)

Slime Moulds* have spore masses like fungi but they are in the Kingdom **Protocista**. See fungimap.org.au/about-fungi/2126-2/



Lost Fungi



Green-staining Coral (*Phaeoclavulina abietina*, Mark Campobasso) seen from Fawkner to Fitzroy.



Stemless Earpick (*Auriscalpium* sp. 'Blackwood', Reiner Richter) – ENDANGERED



Tea-tree Fingers (*Hypocreopsis amplexans*, SJM McMullan-Fisher) – CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



Common Morel (*Morchella esculenta* group, Mirko Tomasi CC-BY-NC)

Keep your eyes out for these likely rare and threatened Fungi <https://fungimap.org.au/lost-fungi/>

Please Take Care

- Protect our bush by arriving with clean and dry equipment, including footwear and hats. So best to ***Arrive clean. Leave clean!***
 - Ideally Phytoclean or methylated spirits should also be used to clean boots and equipment between any sites you visit.
 - For vehicles do not drive on access tracks when it is wet.
 - Never go from infected sites to clean areas.
 - These protective measures help prevent the spread of species we don't know are a problem yet.
- Be mindful of rarity.
 - Do not collect all fruit bodies, leave some for spores.
 - Be careful about not disturbing or removing substrate.
 - Please do NOT collect Tea-tree Fingers (*Hypocreopsis amplexans*), nor *Hymenochaete* species.
- Have a Permit for collections
 - If collections are made ideally written proof like an email of land holders permission (for the Nagoya Protocol which is trying to prevent biopiracy).
 - Tea-tree Fingers (*Hypocreopsis amplexans*) and lichens: Black-beard Lichen (*Neuropogon acromelanus*), *Xanthoparmelia suberadicata* and *Xanthoparmelia victoriana* are Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act listed species in Victoria so a specific collection permit is needed.



Prevent weedy fungi ☹️

Protect our bush by arriving with clean and dry equipment, including footwear and hats. Below are two fungal weeds that are commonly spread by people, so best to **Arrive clean. Leave clean!**

<https://fungimap.org.au/help-stop-the-spread-of-weedy-fungi/>

☹️ Orange Ping-pong Bats (*Favolaschia calocera*)

This weedy wood rot fungus pushes out the diversity of native fungal recyclers. They can spread spores from high in the canopy so best to prevent them getting into your local bushlands.



☹️ Orange Ping-pong Bats (*Favolaschia calocera*, Richard Hartland)

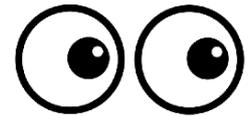
☹️ Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*)

This weedy mycorrhizal fungus came in with Pine trees. As well as partnering with many exotic trees it is a less useful partner to native Eucalypts and Myrtle Beech trees.



☹️ Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*, Ian Bell)

Shared records help us understand:



- What fungi are found around the Merri Creek
- Establish range including over time and survey ga
- Bioclimatic and host preferences
- Conservation status and likely threats
- Model likely responses to climate warming



Fungi records should be shared here

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fungimap-australia>

And other biodiversity records here

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/>

The Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

We are a community group that has actively worked since 1988 to restore and protect the Merri Creek.

The Friends also organize regular creek-side activities and encourage community participation in supporting and regenerating the Creek – planting and site maintenance, bird surveys, Stream Team water quality testing and litter blitzes.

<https://friendsofmerricreek.org.au/>

