

Report on HFNC excursion to Strachans Huts – fungus hunt on 9 May 2009

Diane Luhrs

Attendees: Diane Luhrs, Hilary Turner, Kerry Yuill (PFNC), Max & Lois Phillips (PFNC), Carmel Meissner (PFNC), Ted Meissner (PFNC), Liz Fenton, Cicely Fenton, David & Lyn Munro, Alison Pouliot (Switzerland), Jane Hayes, Rod Bird, Janeen Samuel, Reto Zollinger, Yvonne Ingeme.

We met at the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9 am with members from PFNC joining us there. We travelled to Bullawin Rd to meet David, Lyn and Alison before travelling on to Strachans Huts picnic ground.

Once at Strachan's the party walked along the creek to view the variety of ferns, mosses, lichens and fungi all responding to the recent rains. Along the road, a flowering *Billardiera* sp. was seen with its delicate orange bell-shaped flowers (see Rod's photo below).



A walk along Happy Track and the Victoria Range Track brought many specimens of fungi that David and Alison were able to identify and to explain their special characteristics to the many interested attendees. What was imagined as possibly a scant day for fungi turned out to be a day rich in variety and number of fungi! (see photos below).

David Munro's list of fungi:

- *Heterotexus militinus* – Yellow Jelly-bells
- *Mycena epiplergygie* – Yellow-stemmed Mycena
- *Clitocybe semioculta* – Shy Funnel-cap
- *Marasmius crinusequi* – Horse-hair Fungi
- *Pycnoporus coccineus* – Scarlet bracket Fungus
- *Stereum illuclous* – Purplish Stereum
- *Clavicorna colensii* – Coral Fungus
- *Mycena albidofuscus*
- *Calocera* sp. (a pretty horn)
- *Pholiota communis*
- *Psilocybe coprophila*
- *Ceratomyces fructilosa* (a slime mould)
- *Mycena* spp X2

We inspected the former foresty stands of Messmate (*E. obliqua*), Brown Stringybark (*E. baxteri*) and Grampians Grey Gum (*E. alaticaulis*) that grow on the eastern slopes of the Victoria Range. This was the productive area of foresty in the Grampians and was heavily logged up to about 1990. Now, some 20 years later, magnificent trees are appearing. The diameter at breast height of some is about 70 cm.



