

IUCN DISCUSSION GROUP
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Species Survival
Commission, Committee for Fungi

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The Australasian Regional Committee members are: Cheryl Grgurinovic (co-ordinator), Neale Bougher, Tom May, Eric McKenzie and Jack Simpson.

The Species Survival Commission is the primary source of scientific and technical information required for the conservation of endangered species of fauna and flora. It recommends and promotes measures for their conservation, and for the management of other species of conservation concern. Its objective is to mobilise action to prevent the extinction of species, subspecies and discrete populations thereby maintaining biological diversity and improving the status of endangered and vulnerable species.

There are about 120 specialist groups. Each group exists to provide leadership for conservation, to determine and review the status and needs of taxa, and to make these known through publications, films, meetings, etc., in order to promote wise management.

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If you are interested in participating in this group contact the co-ordinator (Email: AEA.lab@unsw.edu.au).

THE AUSTRALASIAN FUNGAL POISONING NETWORK

Following the decision taken at the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Mycological Society held in Melbourne last October, the formation of the Fungal Poisonings Network has begun. The three coordinators are:

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Although it is early days, the three co-ordinators are very keen to commence gathering information and members are encouraged to forward any relevant data on actual cases, literature, *etc.* to the relevant co-ordinator. As such a large area is being 'developed' by a rather small team, responsibilities for the Australasian area have been allocated as follows:

Peter Buchanan, New Zealand; Mary Cole, Vic, NSW, ACT, SA; Tony Young, WA, Tas, Qld, NT.

Future directions are hoped to include: development of a database, literature lists, a key to toxic fungi utilising Lucid and contact with the relevant poisons centres and medical associations in an attempt to raise both professional and public awareness of the toxic fungi.

(Note: because of solar power arrangements, Tony Young's fax machine is not always on. Please ring first if you wish to send faxed material so that the equipment can be turned on. The setting up of an email address for Tony is to take place shortly and when this is completed, the address will be made available.)