

What lies beneath? The role of soil biota in the health and rehabilitation of native vegetation

Tuesday 17 – Thursday 19 April 2007

Venue: CSIRO Discovery Theatre, Clunies Ross Street, Acton, ACT.

Did you know that:

- Most Australian plants grow symbiotically with mycorrhizal fungi?
- Healthy soil crusts protect against drought and weeds?
- Paddock soils contain many fewer mycorrhizae than adjacent woodland?

The next bold step in native vegetation rehabilitation

This national forum will provide an opportunity for sharing the latest research on the key roles of soil organisms in ecosystem function. We will attempt to come to grips with how this knowledge can be applied in native vegetation rehabilitation practice.

The primary focus will be on the hidden and often-overlooked flora: mosses, liverworts, algae, fungi and lichens. These organisms are important in ecosystem functioning (for example through formation of biotic soil crusts and as mycorrhizal partners of plants).

Practitioners will demonstrate identification techniques and applications to rehabilitation practice, share knowledge and skills gained from experience, and identify areas of research needed to fill knowledge gaps.

The forum will include:

- presentations on the diversity of soil biota and their role in ecosystem function
- workshops including identification of fungi, lichens and mosses
- panel discussions on application to native vegetation rehabilitation
- field visits demonstrating techniques and practical application.

National experts will be presenting, including

Neale Bougher, Andrew Claridge, Matt Colloff, David Eldridge, Tom May, Peter McGee, Peter Thrall.

Registration: you can attend the full 3-day forum OR selected days.

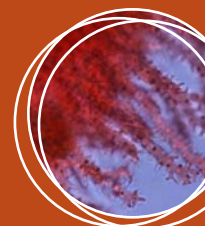
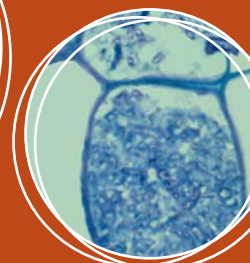
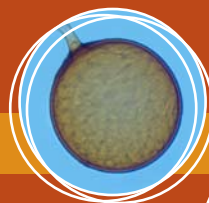
Registration fee also includes catering, field costs & GST

Full forum: \$330 or daily fee of \$110

ANPC Member (10% discount): full forum: \$300 or daily fee of \$100

*Registration forms and programs will be posted on the ANPC website
<http://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences.html>*

Photos top to bottom: Spore of Glomus, a mycorrhizal fungus growing within plant roots; photo: Peter McGee. Moss leaflets under microscope; photo: Cassia Read. Dermocybe splendida, a mycorrhizal fungus of eucalypt forests; photo: Simon Lewis. Mycorrhizal fungal hyphae within Wollemi Pine root cells; photo: Peter McGee. Biotic soil crust; photo: Cassia Read. Cystidia of the fruiting body of the fungus Aleurodiscus; photo: Neale Bougher. Sheath of ectomycorrhizal fungus on Nothofagus rootlet; photo: Christopher Dunk. Biotic soil crust with lichens; photo: Cassia Read. Seedlings inoculated with mycorrhizal fungi; uninoculated seedlings failed; photo: Peter McGee. Direct-seeding trial to test if salt-tolerant native rhizobia improve establishment of acacias on saline soils; photo: Peter Thrall.



Natural Heritage Trust

Helping Communities Helping Australia

A Commonwealth Government Initiative



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