



Murrumbateman Landcare Group

Guest Speaker 7pm Thursday 1st July 2010

Prof. James Trappe – native Australian truffles and mushrooms



Did you know Australia is a mega-diverse hotspot for truffles and mushrooms?. And not just for the gourmands, truffles play an essential role in the health of our box-gum woodlands and other ecosystems. Bring a fresh specimen for Jim to identify and find out what's on your property – it could be a new species!



Prof. Trappe is an world renowned expert mycologist from Oregon State University. Jim has found more than 200 new truffle species on five continents, published over 400 scientific papers, been awarded numerous times for his contributions to the science of mycology and also tells a fascinating tale on the role of fungi in our ecosystems.

So beneficial is the partnership between truffles and mushrooms and trees, woody plants and other herbaceous plants that nearly all plants have some form of association. All truffles and mushrooms produce networks of hyphae (filaments) that grow between plant rootlets providing the plant with nutrients and water while the plant provides sugars and other nutrients generated through photosynthesis to the fungi.

Did you know fungi have adapted so well to the dry Australian conditions and as a result Australia is known as a mega – diverse continent for truffles – by living underground truffles do not have to face the hazards a mushrooms such as heat, drying winds, frost and grazing animals.

This Autumn has been a great season for mushrooms and truffles...bring along a fresh fruiting specimen to the meeting for Jim to have a look at and see if he can identify it for you....if it turns out to be a new species you could even get it named after you!