

## Meeting reports

### *Mycorrhizal fungi - ubiquitous underground partners of plants.* 11 Feb

Reviewed by *Nina Hesom-Williams*

This year's first BSO talk, given by William Evans Visiting Fellow Prof. John Cairney, proved to be a great success, both educating and entertaining the large audience.

Prof. Cairney, from the University of Western Sydney, spoke about the ubiquitous nature of mycorrhizal fungi, even on coral islands (see fig below), and in particular described the work he carries out on ericoid ectomycorrhizae.

Of particular interest was work focused on *Amanita muscaria* genotypes in New South Wales pine plantations, which showed that individual fungi may live much longer than expected, and may also be much larger than originally thought.

Prof Cairney also pointed out that fundamental problems still exist when researching mycorrhizal fungi, leaving many important questions still to be answered.

This talk certainly set a high standard for future talks and judging by the large audience turnout it is obvious that BSO members are still fascinated by mycorrhizal fungi and are always keen to learn more.

