



## GUIDELINES FOR FORAY LEADERS

The following are guidelines when organising a foray. There is considerable overlap with the **Guidelines for Fungus Collecting** but a foray leader has some 'extras' to deal with.

### *Before the foray:*

- Obtain and carry the appropriate collecting **permits** (See **Guidelines for Fungus Collecting**).
- Obtain **permission** from the Park Management, Forestry Commission or landowner to conduct the foray, and check current access to the site. Besides being courteous (and often a permit requirement), it is frustrating to get to a survey site and find it is closed because of feral animal control programs, logging or even a wedding!
- Fungimap has an **insurance** policy to cover forays conducted under its auspices. To be covered by this insurance, the leader must give details, in advance and in writing, of the foray (date, meeting time, destination) to Fungimap (fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au) and receive confirmation that the activity is an official Fungimap foray. The leader must also ensure that the group complies with the requirements of the policy. In particular, foray participants must be members of Fungimap. First time visitors may be exempt but it should be made clear that, should they wish to participate in further forays, they must become official members of the Society. The leader must keep a **list of attendees**, and send this to Fungimap after the foray.
- Prior to the foray, check **contact details** within the group. Exchange contact information so that group members may be informed of any changes to plan. Accidents can happen so it is advisable to have phone number of a family member or friend of each of the group.
- Carry a **First Aid** kit in the car. For short forays a group member may be commissioned to carry a small, basic kit.
- Have **disease management** procedures in place (See **Guidelines for Fungus Collecting**).
- Organise **collecting gear** (e.g. load up the car the previous night with collecting gear so there is only food and drink to organise in the morning).
- **Punctuality**. Make it clear to all potential forayers that you will not wait after the appointed meeting time.

### *At the foray site:*

- **Gather the group** together and tell them the **rules of foraying**. Many will know these already but newcomers may not and it is always a good idea to remind everyone of the rules. This helps towards a smooth and relaxed foray when everyone knows what is expected. Remember that you are the leader and you are merely ensuring that members of the group follow the requirements.
- Introduce the **appointed collector(s)**. They are the only people who may make collections. They should be permit holders.
- **Appoint a recorder** to make a list of all fungal species present. If names are not known for species, appropriate tags or nicknames can be decided as a group activity. The list of species should be compiled and sent to Fungimap. Please keep separate lists of species from each habitat or vegetation type that you foray in, and include latitude/longitude or grid reference of each such portion of the foray (one reading if you do not walk far, as is often the case, otherwise take reading at start and finish of each portion).

- Brush and disinfect **boots/shoes** – just to be sure they are disease-free.

**Rules (and suggestions in parentheses) for forays:**

- **Keep together.** Necessary for safety, sharing information on fungal species and learning – and it is more fun!
- **Collect only what you need** for the purpose of the foray. This depends on the experience of your group. Some may be collecting for a State Herbarium (under permit), but often the participants have come to learn about fungi in general. It can be a good idea to make one good collection to demonstrate the process. It does take time to make good collections and can lead to fragmentation of the group while the leader is concentrating on collecting.
- For general educational purposes, collect one or few specimens of the species found for a **display table**. However, only collect a species if it is not rare, and when there are sufficient fruit bodies. To this end, one of the group can carry a collecting box, such as a large fishing-tackle box with horizontal compartments, another carries the waxed paper and, after the leader has carefully dug up the specimen, chatted about it and it has been recorded, it is wrapped and placed in the box. Tiny fruit-bodies can be placed directly in compartments of small fishing tackle boxes.
- Cut pieces of white paper to fit in the bottoms of fishing tackle compartments, this enables **spore prints** of, for example, agarics to be made: detach a cap and place face down on the paper. Spore print may appear within hours, or at least by next day.
- **Collect only mature specimens in good condition.** (Avoid collecting fungal babes and geriatrics. The babes have not had a chance to produce mature spores, the geriatrics are often putrescent.)
- **Use all specimens collected.** It can be useful to have a display table of specimens collected. If foraying in the morning, for example, after lunch, unwrap the fungal specimens, lay them out on a suitable flat surface and put a bit of paper with each fungus. The leader can name the fungi, or as an educational exercise, those who want to participate can write down the names. This leads to considerable discussion and often hilarity. From the display table, specimens can be chosen to examine further at an identification meeting a couple of days later. Specimens for later examination are rewrapped, and can be kept in a fridge until the meeting (do not freeze). Unwanted specimens are returned, fertile surface down, as close as possible to their habitat – they may not regrow but they have the chance to drop their spores in an appropriate place. They also may be homes for tiny invertebrates.
- At the end of the foray make sure that **boots/shoes and car wheels** (if cars have been on forest tracks) **have been disinfected**.

**In spite of all of the above – have fun!** It may sound daunting but all Fungimappers know of the wonderful camaraderie that develops with foraying – and that comes about when everyone feels that they have thoroughly deserved their good day of Fungologizing.

P.S. And tell everyone not to eat the exhibits.

