

# QUEENSLAND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY (INC) FORAY GUIDELINES

These guidelines include two parts:

1. Guidelines for Attendees
2. Guidelines for Foray Leaders

A separate document, Foray Guideline Appendices includes these documents:

- a. Foray Risk Assessment and Sign-on sheet
- b. Foray Sheet Notes
- c. Substrates list
- d. Foray sheet

The following related documents are available from the QMS website or from the Foray Co-ordinator:

- Foray Leader's Proposal and Attendee Nomination form
- Foray Collection Record Sheet

## 1. GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDEES

The following guidelines have been developed to:

- Provide all Queensland Mycological Society (Inc) members with general information about the QMS Forays;
- Assist QMS members to understand what to expect on a QMS foray; and
- Assist QMS members who volunteer to organise and lead a QMS foray to comply with the professional standards established by QMS.

Ideally a foray would be led by an experienced macro-mycologist. Currently QMS has few experienced macro-mycologists. Members are mainly enthusiastic fungi aware folk with a wealth of diverse scientific knowledge. **By drawing on members many skills, working together and sharing knowledge as a team members can participate in forays and gradually gain experience, report sightings of Q-Fungi and Fungimap "Target" species and increase their understanding of macro-fungi.**

**All foray participants are urged to understand and appreciate that the Foray Leaders have volunteered to guide members through an area they are familiar with and where they have previously found fungi. These leaders will facilitate the foray but ultimately the success of the foray is dependent on each participant sharing their knowledge and observations.**

Using references such as *A Field Guide to the Fungi of Australia* (A.M. Young 2005) or *Fungi Down Under* (Pat and Ed Grey 2005) foray participants are encouraged to study all the fungi encountered and consider in which of the major fungal groups, referred to in those texts, the fungus belongs. The foray records should list any target species seen, which will then be reported to Q-Fungi and/or Fungimap by the Foray Co-ordinators.

If you know a good fungal spot please contact the Foray Co-ordinators to have it listed on the Foray Programme. **Remember forays are a QMS member activity and will only happen if members are want to lead and participate in the trips.**

## WHAT IS A QMS FORAY?

A QMS Foray will consist of four to fifteen members including the Foray Leader who will guide the participants on a walk through the specified area seeking out fungi.

**Members are reminded taking collections without the appropriate “permit to collect” is an offence under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992 and can result in a heavy fine.**

**QMS forays will NOT collect ANY fungi** (not even when on private property) unless a macro-mycologist, with the appropriate “permit to collect” is present, in which case he or she may make collections in a manner consistent with their permit conditions and research project, and provided the relevant authority has been given prior notification.

The current proposal:

- Is to hold one foray per month, on the Saturday before the QMS monthly meeting;
- To rotate the forays through the various areas of Brisbane i.e. North, South, East, West, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast;
- Each foray is expected to last 3 hours, excluding travelling time; and
- To have photos of interesting fungi seen on the foray available to show and discuss at the next meeting.

### **TO ATTEND A FORAY**

Read the foray programme and proposals, choose a foray where the terrain and track are compatible with your fitness level (talk with the leader if you have any concerns), then nominate for the trip - this can be done personally at meetings or by email or phone to the Foray Leader. The final participant numbers, within the range of four to fifteen persons, will be at the discretion of the Foray Leader. Within a month of the trip, the Foray Leader should contact you to confirm your attendance, and co-ordinate last minute arrangements. If there are any changes within this period, especially inability to attend, please contact the Foray Leader.

**Punctuality is important.** On the day, arrive at the meeting point at the scheduled time so that the administrative formalities can be completed.

Specific information will be made available for each trip but normally participants will need to:

- Wear appropriate clothing - in rainforest this includes long sleeved shirts and trousers; and sturdy good gripping shoes or boots (no thongs or sandals).
- Carry a warm jacket and wet weather gear.
- Make sure you have a personal first aid kit, which includes a compression bandage, insect repellent, sun block etc (remember ticks and leeches are part of the environment!).
- Carry fluids, morning tea, lunch and snacks.
- Never go into the bush alone – ideally a group consists of a minimum of four persons.
- In the rainforest take care to identify and avoid Stinger Trees, stinging nettles and prickly vines.
- Always inform a responsible person when and where you are going and when to expect you to return. Remember to notify them of your safe return.

Everyone needs his or her own foray kit. This usually evolves by personal choice. All the small utensils can be packed into a gardener’s or carpenter’s “tool belt”. Some people like to carry a folder of fungi “cheat sheets” (memory aids) and/or photographic equipment, and:

- Magnifying glass – a x10 hand lens is the best type.
- Mirror for looking under fungi (mechanic’s inspection or dental mirror is best).
- A ruler or vernier callipers.
- Clip board, paper, pens, pencil and rubber.
- Colour chart.

- Notebook.
- Piece of body-size waterproof sheeting or kneelers (for protection when kneeling in wet vegetation).

## **SAFETY**

As legally required, a QMS Foray Risk Assessment is provided for participants' safety. A copy is available in this document or from the Foray Co-ordinator. You will be required to sign your agreement at the start of the foray. Please read it, your safety and the safety of other foray participants is the responsibility of every member.

**Note:** Some fungi are poisonous or may cause allergies. The toxicity of most Australian fungi is not known.

- Wash your hands after handling fungi.
- Do not breathe in the spores of fungi.
- Keep children and pets away from fungi.

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Go gently - do not damage sensitive ecosystems.
- Leave every site as you found it.
- Take out only what you take in and photos, photos and more photos.
- Collect only with an appropriate permit, adhering strictly to the conditions of that permit.

**GO FORTH AND ENJOY THE WORLD OF MACROFUNGI!!**

### **References:**

Grey, Pat & Ed, (2005), "Fungi Down Under"

Young, A.M., (2005), "A Field Guide to Fungi of Australia"

Sundry Fungimap articles

## 2. FOR FORAY LEADER

To lead a QMS foray all you need is the ability to organise a group and lead them through your favourite fungal hotspot.

Therefore all QMS members, who know a location where fungi are frequently found and are prepared to lead a foray, are invited to discuss potential foray sites and Foray Leader's duties, with the QMS Executive via the Foray Co-ordinator.

After discussion and receiving the Co-ordinators' in principle agreement to proceed the Foray Leader will contact any private property owner to obtain permission to access their property. This is not only courteous but a legal necessity when accessing private property, and will assist in raising the profile of both macro-fungi and QMS. When access to the area has been granted the Foray Proposal will be submitted to the QMS Executive for approval, as is required for insurance purposes.

Once the proposed foray is approved it will be listed on the programme. The Foray Leader will then proceed to organise the trip, taking action to:

1. Advise the property owner when the trip is scheduled and check the suitability of the proposed date for site access. Remember to contact the owner again after the event to thank them for allowing the group access.
2. Accept Foray nominations from QMS members either personally at meetings or by email or phone. At present this is arranged by the QMS Executive via the Co-ordinator, and the nomination sheet is integrated with the Foray proposal form. The Foray Leader has the right to limit the number of participants at his or her discretion.
3. After members have had an opportunity to book a place, i.e. after the last QMS General Meeting, generally within a month of the trip, the responsibility of organisation passes to the Foray Leader, who must confirm the bookings with all attendees, and reiterate the date, time and meeting venue, and deal with any final coordination matters. The Foray Leader and participants have a responsibility to arrive 15 minutes before departure time so that the sign on sheet can be completed by all participants.
4. Carry a first aid kit and a pressure bandage.
5. Ensure Disease Management strategies are followed in sensitive areas. (All participants are to brush and disinfect footwear with methylated spirits to ensure footwear is disease free. If vehicles have to be taken off road ensure the tyres are clean and disinfected.)
6. The Foray Leader should carry a map of the area and, if possible, a GPS, and be able to navigate by a map or GPS. In very difficult terrain carrying an EPIRB is recommended.
7. There are specific requirements for forays at sites controlled by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. See the document 'SCRC collecting' on the QMS website:  
<http://qldfungi.org.au/memberresources/forays/foray-guideline-documents>.

**Prior to the trip commencement**, at the starting point (or wherever the group first meet):

- Check participants' membership status.

- Ensure all participants have read and understand the Risk Assessment and liability disclaimer on the Attendance Record when signing on. This form is available from the QMS Executive via the Co-ordinator and pages 6-8 of this document. Ensure that contact details have been provided.
- Provide a brief over view of the area to be covered in the foray, including any last minute information on the trip and/or toilet facilities.
- Form a circle and have all participants state their name and number off – this is to introduce participants to each other, double check the number attending and that all participants have signed on.
- Request or select a volunteer to assist with recording all fungi seen on the day in the QMS Foray Record Sheet (see the document Foray Guideline Appendices) and encourage participants to join in finding, photographing and describing the characteristics of each fungus in situ.
- For safety keep the group together sharing knowledge and having fun.

#### **At the end of the foray**

- Ensure that all footwear is brushed and disinfected again. If vehicles have been taken off road ensure the tyres are clean.
- In consultation with any photographers, select several digital photos to show and discuss at the next QMS meeting.
- Ensure all participants sign off immediately before departing. Wait at the site until the last vehicle has started and all participants are safely on their way home, unless a participant advises that they intend to remain in the area.
- Report any accidents, incidents or injuries by phone, followed with a written report to the Co-ordinators.
- Return completed attendance records, fungi record forms and any incident reports to the QMS Executive via the Co-ordinator.

Have fun and enjoy sharing your knowledge and learning with and from the participants.

**Finally, thank you for taking on the role of Foray Leader, this is an important role in helping QMS meet the members needs. Without your help this activity could not be offered.**