
Field Work In Marine Areas

Do

- Have sufficient supervision for both the number of students, the site, and the activities; ensure that these adults are correctly briefed before the field work as to emergency procedures, what the students will be doing, how the equipment works, time lines.
- Do preliminary site checks carefully, ensuring that the sites are suitable for the intended activities, are safe from physical hazards, and that students can work without being interrupted by outsiders. If you are using a coach, the coach driver usually can act as a general 'watch dog', and should not wander off leaving the coach locked with all the lunches in it.
- Be sensible – wear sensible clothes, hats and sun screen.
- Always gently turn boulders back on the seashore.
- Leave natural materials in place.
- Keep to tracks.
- Replace leaf litter.
- Get permission before entering private property.
- Carry a first aid kit; depending on the area, this may have to contain an ice pack (in an esky) for use on marine stingers (jelly fish, blue bottles etc); plus Betadine for coral and other cuts.
- Check that asthmatic students are carrying appropriate remedies including Ventolin sprays.
- Check that the school/institution/government department/organisation is covering field activities with public liability insurance.
- Check transport to, location and contact telephone number of emergency assistance such as ambulance, police, especially in isolated areas.
- Do pre- and post-activity checks of numbers and equipment, including personal items such as jumpers and cameras.
- Check that toilets, fresh water and shade are available.
- Do establish and put into place best practice.
- Do enjoy fieldwork.

Don't

- Don't litter – take it home.
- Don't take anything home you didn't bring, except rubbish brought by others.
- Don't break the habitat apart.
- Don't remove natural materials.
- Don't permanently mark trees or rocks with paint or carvings, use chalk.
- Don't turn your back on waves; always have someone watching them.
- Don't put fingers where you can't see.
- Don't handle blue-ringed octopuses, cone shells, stinging corals, spine fish, or other dangerous marine organisms.
- don't enter the surf or deep water unless your group is accompanied by lifesavers and has the appropriate safety measures in place
- don't stay out too long: three to four hours is plenty for most secondary students.