



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Fungal Survey

on Caving Equipment
of Australian Cavers

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Sample collection

Kits will be sent out,
containing **3** sterile swabs





Step 1

Label sample

e.g.

Sample 1 – Boot

Sample 2 – Suit

Sample 3 – Rope

You don't need to swab
all 3 items

Sample Submission Form

Melbourne Veterinary School/Department of Biosciences
Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences



Project: Fungal survey on caving equipment of Australian cavers
"Fungal spore richness and diversity in Australian caves"

Thank you for contributing to our research!

Please submit information on the sample(s) you have collected:

Date of sample collection:		
Sample collected	☐ Directly after cave visit	☐ After returning home
Sampling location	State	
	General area	
	Postcode (if known)	
	Cave name (if known, optional)	
	Other identifying data (e.g. GPS, optional)	
Type of sample(s) collected (please tick)	Swab number (write on tube)	Other swab details (if applicable)
☐ Boot swab (around ankles)		
☐ Suit swab (elbow, knees)		
☐ Harness or rope swab		

Please make sure all swabs are in **labelled** screw-cap tubes.

Step 1

Label sample

e.g.

Sample 1 – Boot

Sample 2 – Suit

Sample 3 – Rope

You may send in “incomplete sets” (e.g. if you did not wear a suit and thus did not swab it), but ideally, a **complete set should contain all 3 samples.**



Step 2

Remove swab from tube

Taking care to only touch the handle



Step 2

**Remove swab from
tube**

Taking care to only
touch the handle



Step 4

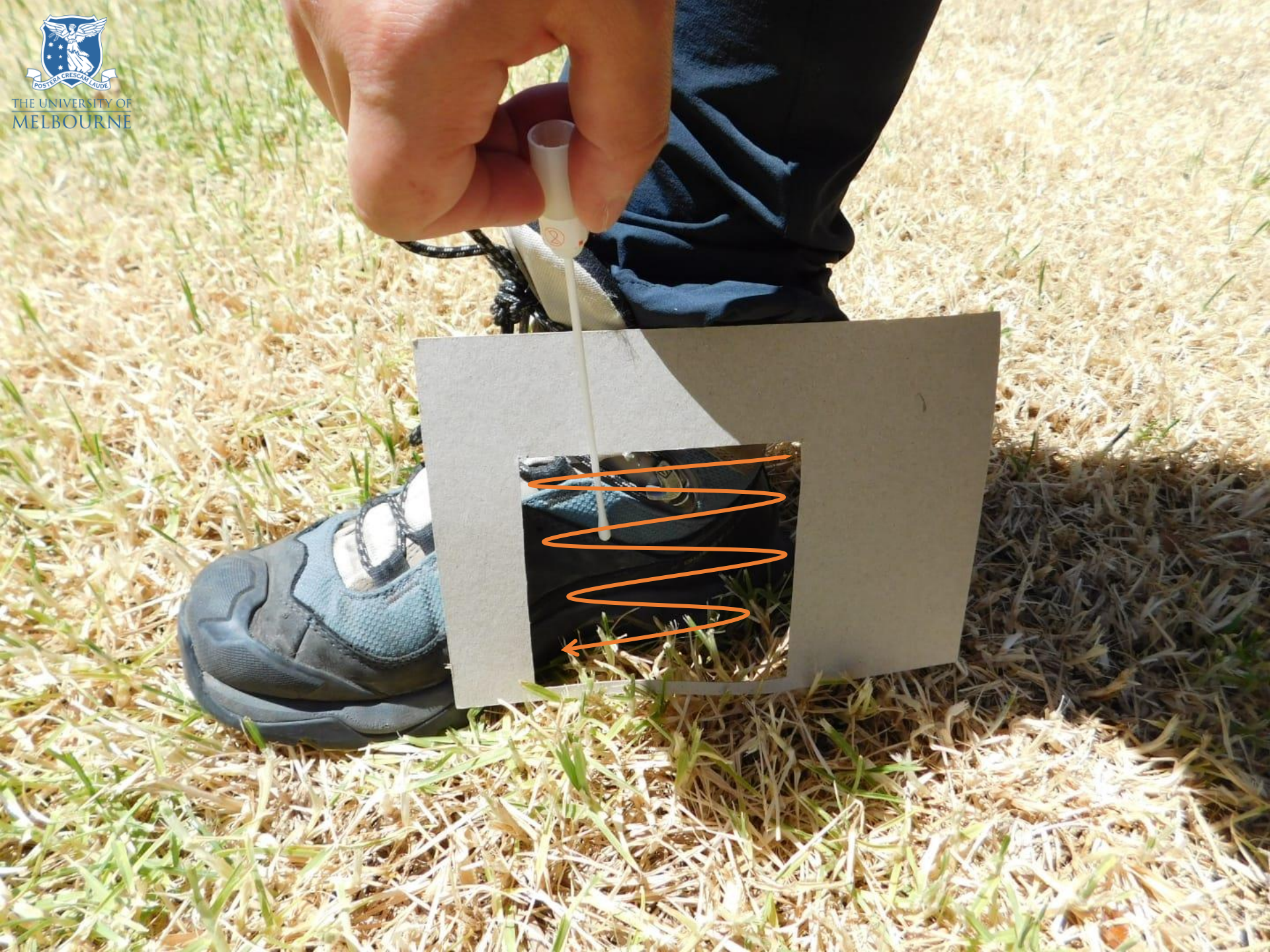
Swab gear (e.g. boot)



Step 4

Swab gear (e.g. boot)

10cm²
(template provided in kit)

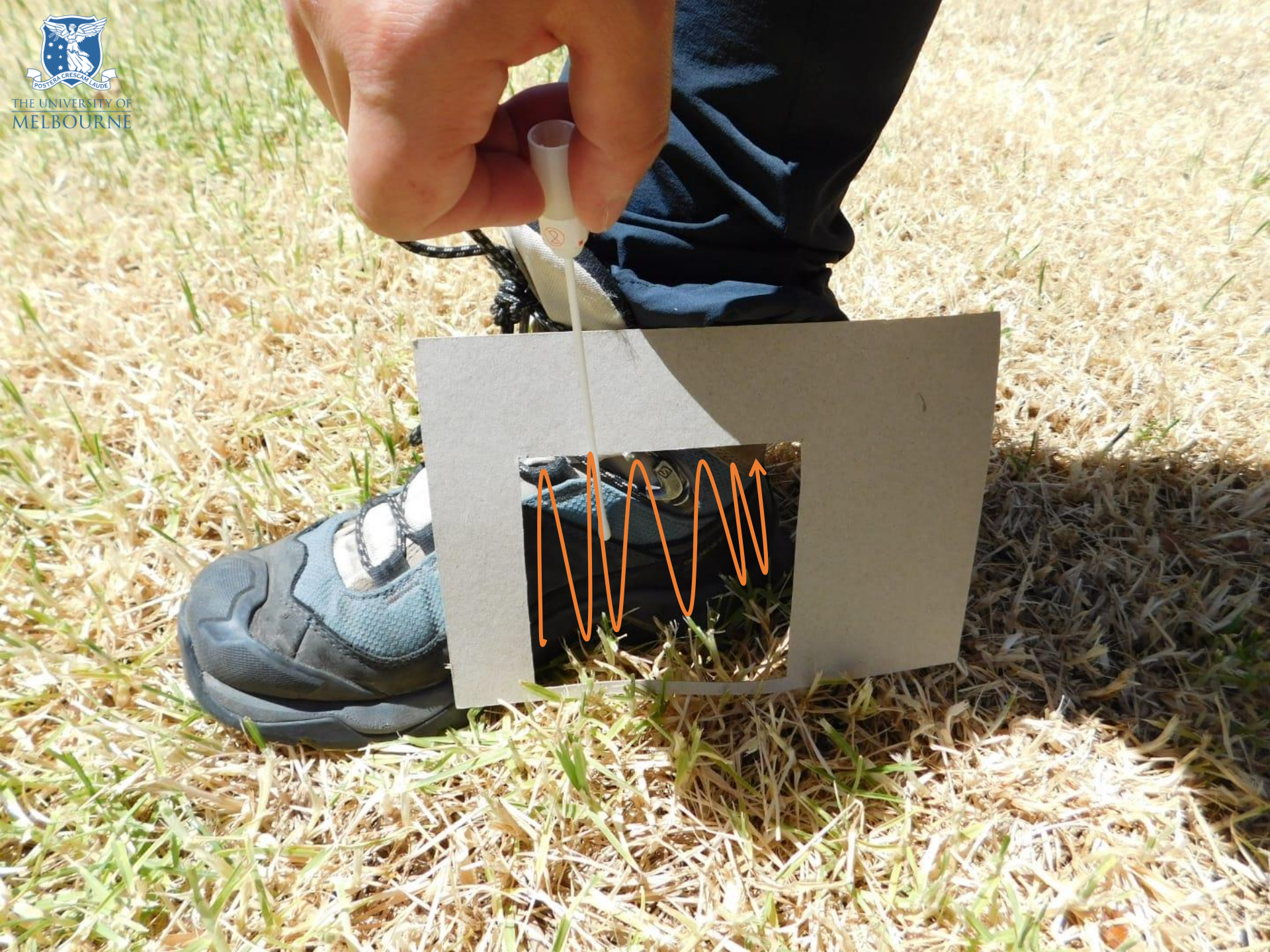


Step 4

Swab gear (e.g. boot)

10cm²
(template provided in kit)

**Around ankles, avoid
sole of boots**



Step 4

Swab gear (e.g. boot)

10cm²
(template provided in kit)

**Around ankles, avoid
sole of boots**



Step 5

Return swab to tube

Taking care not to let the head of the swab touch anything else



Step 5

Return swab to tube

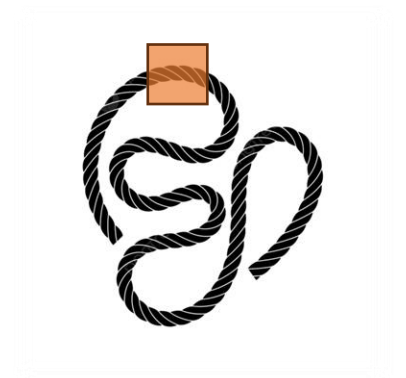
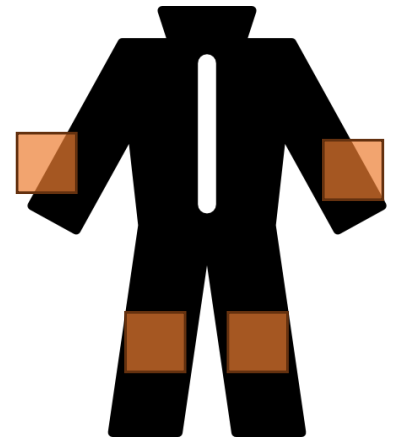
Taking care not to let the head of the swab touch anything else

Step 6

Swab other equipment
(if present)

Caving suit: Swab area of **10cm²** around both knees and elbows

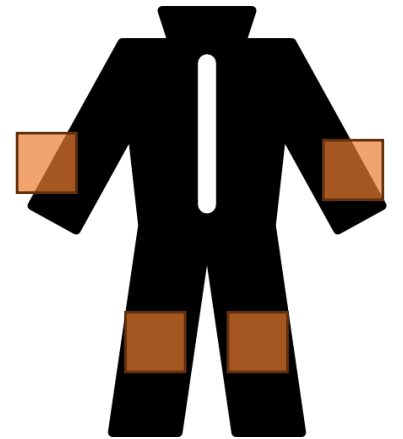
Rope: Swab area of **10cm** length



Step 7

Mail samples back to us

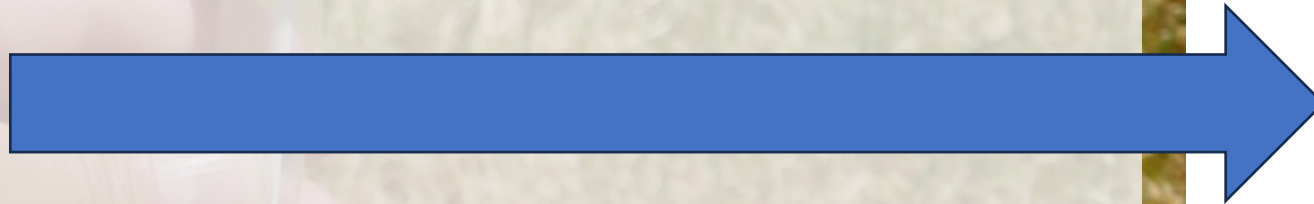
Kit will come with a pre-paid envelope



Step 7

Mail samples back to us

Kit will come with a **pre-paid envelope**



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