



BIOBLITZ 2008!

Find out which creatures are lurking in Corrigin Reserve

Bioblitz is a 24-hour, intensive survey and this year it's happening at **Corrigin Reserve**. Starting at noon on the 18th and wrapping up at 1pm on the 19th of October, it is a great event for the whole family.

So why not come along and join the fun?

All meals are included and there are plenty of camp sites for everyone. To register your interest, or for further information on becoming a team member, please contact:

Sally McPhee - Community Engagement Project Officer
WWF-Australia
0429202753
smcphee@wwf.org.au





Photo: WWF/Michael Roache

CORRIGIN BIOBLITZ

18th & 19th October 2008

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION



The Bioblitz is part of 'Back from the Edge', an Avon Catchment Council funded project to be delivered by WWF-Australia and supported by the Australian Government and the Government of Western Australia.

Introduction

WWF-Australia are inviting land managers, scientists, members of the community and those involved in natural resource management to join their BioBlitz in October and learn more about the natural systems that are right on our back doorstep in the Avon River Basin.

The BioBlitz will be held in Corrigin and Corrigin Reserve over the 18th and 19th of October, 2008.

The Corrigin Reserve is one of the largest patches of bushland in the Central Wheatbelt. Although its botany has been well documented in the past, this will be a fantastic opportunity to discover what animals and plants are living in the reserve. It will also be a chance to confirm recent sightings of malleefowl that have never been officially recorded. All of the information collected on the days will be compiled in a report to the Corrigin Shire and WaterCorp, detailing the reserve's biological diversity, the presence of rare and threatened species, and other information to assist in the long-term management of the Reserve.

Part of this BioBlitz is being run in a natural environment with a number of participants, so it is imperative that both safety and respect for the environment are considered and managed effectively. These briefing notes and itinerary provide information on issues such as: what to expect and what's expected of participants; what to bring; and the range of activities and protocols during the event.

The BioBlitz

The BioBlitz will be launched at 'Lews Lookout' in the Corrigin Reserve and will kick off with an opening by Julian Murphy, the CEO of Corrigin Shire, and a Welcome to Country from a traditional owner.

Day One will continue with people selecting from a range of interesting activities and attending those activities at a variety of locations throughout the reserve.

After the field components of the day are over, participants will make their way to the 'Cyril Box Recreation Reserve' in Corrigin, where they will set up camp and be provided with an evening meal and entertainment.

Participants can return to Corrigin Reserve on Day Two and take part in their chosen surveying activities. These will conclude around 12 pm, after which participants will be provided with lunch before heading home.

The two day event will give people the opportunity to:

- Participate in training to identify and record information on the presence of a range of flora and fauna populations, including threatened species,
- Share information and expertise about species and techniques for collecting information,
- Contribute to the conservation of a unique patch of bushland, within a region renowned for its biodiversity, and
- Discover opportunities to access funding to protect bushland containing these and other threatened species.

How to get involved: RSVP before Friday 10th October is essential.

All activities are free. Participants are welcome to attend as many activities as they can. Meals are provided and campsites have been arranged at 'The Cyril Box Recreation Reserve' in Corrigin.

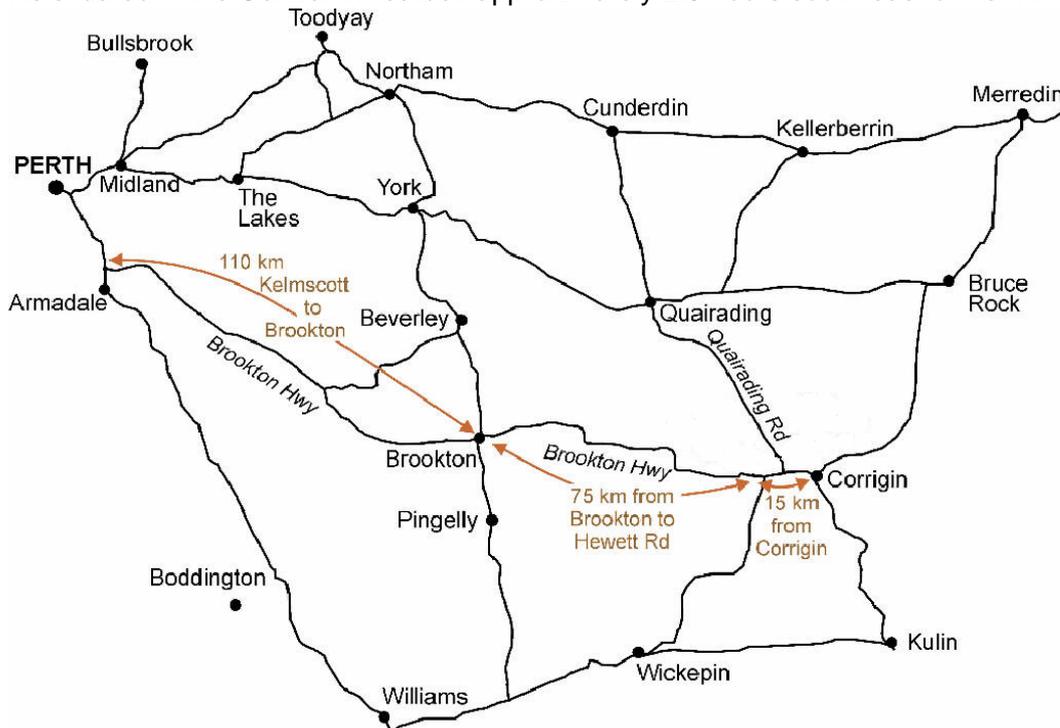
Please note that although camp sites and toilet and shower facilities are provided free of charge, you will need to provide your own camping equipment. There are paved areas available for caravans if desired.

If you are keen to know more, or want to come along and be involved, please call Sally McPhee, Avon Community Engagement Project Officer, on 0429 202 753 or email smcphee@wwf.org.au. Please ensure that you complete and return the attached 'Participant Information Form'. This can be either emailed to the above address or faxed to 08 9621 2580.

Bio Blitz specifics...

Where:

Corrigin is situated in the Central Wheatbelt approximately 2.5 hours south-east of Perth.



1. Field Components (Days 1&2):

Corrigin Reserve – 5 km west of the town of Corrigin on the Brookton Highway, Shire of Corrigin.



Picture: Courtesy of Shire of Corrigin.



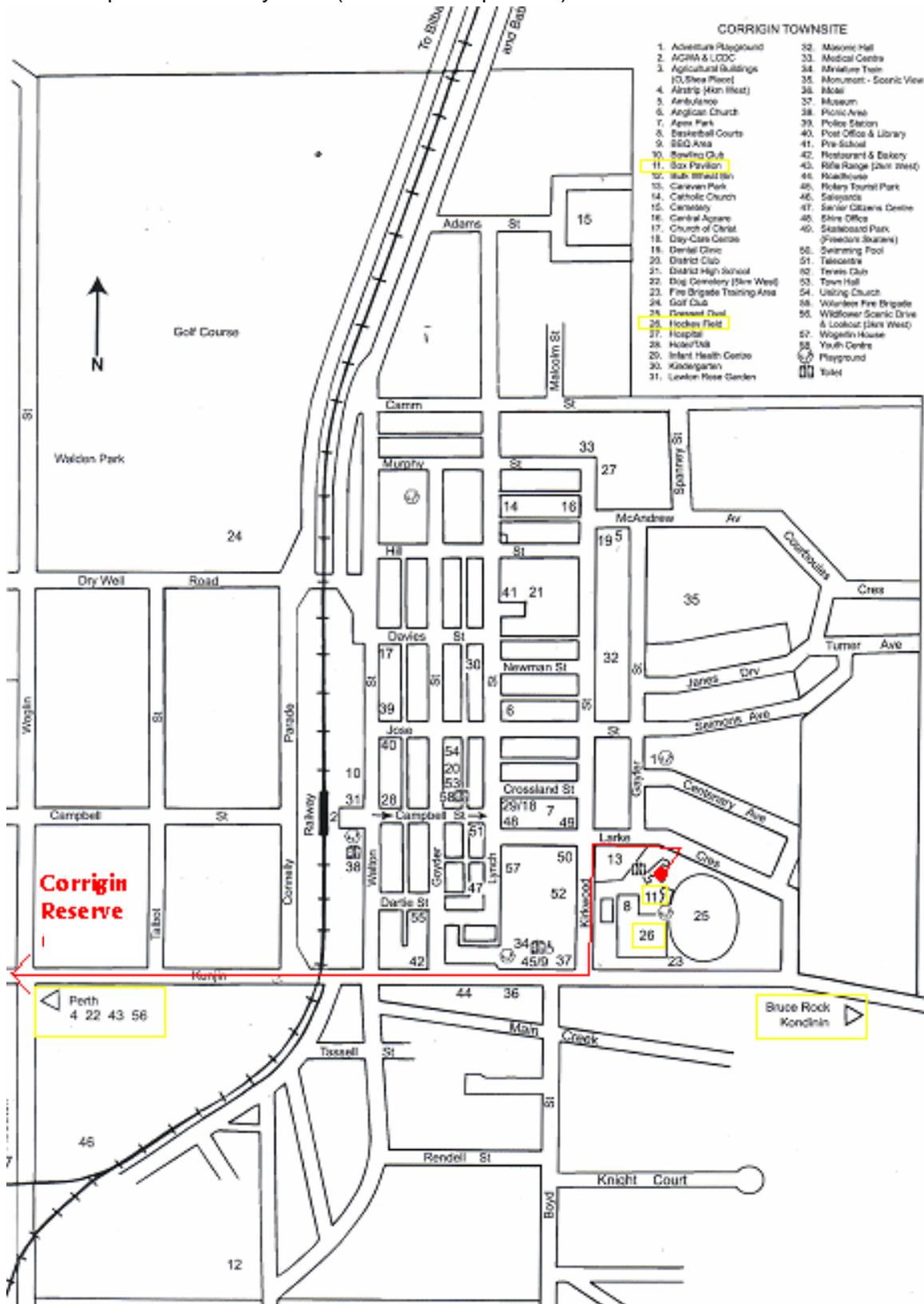
Picture: Courtesy of Shire of Corrigin.

'Lews Lookout' or 'HQ', is located within Corrigin Reserve. The track leading up to the lookout (which will only be accessible by foot, unless you have mobility concerns, in which case contact the organisers) is located approximately 2km east of the famous 'Dog Cemetery', or 5km west of Corrigin on the Brookton Highway. It is signposted by a 'Scenic Lookout' sign.

Please follow signs on arrival to Corrigin or look for the cemetery which is landmarked by the statue of a large dog. A map will be sent to all participants who RSVP.

2. Accommodation & meals:

Campsites are provided at the 'The Cyril Box Recreation Reserve,' Larke Crescent, in Corrigin. Tents will be set up on the Hockey Field (see 26 on map below).



Breakfast and dinner will be provided within the function centre at the Recreation Reserve. It is a licensed venue, so if you like you can bring your own drinks to have inside the centre. Lunches will be provided at 'Lews Lookout,' within Corrigin Reserve. It is essential that you indicate if you have any special dietary requirements on your participation form or by contacting Bio Blitz Coordinator Sally McPhee.

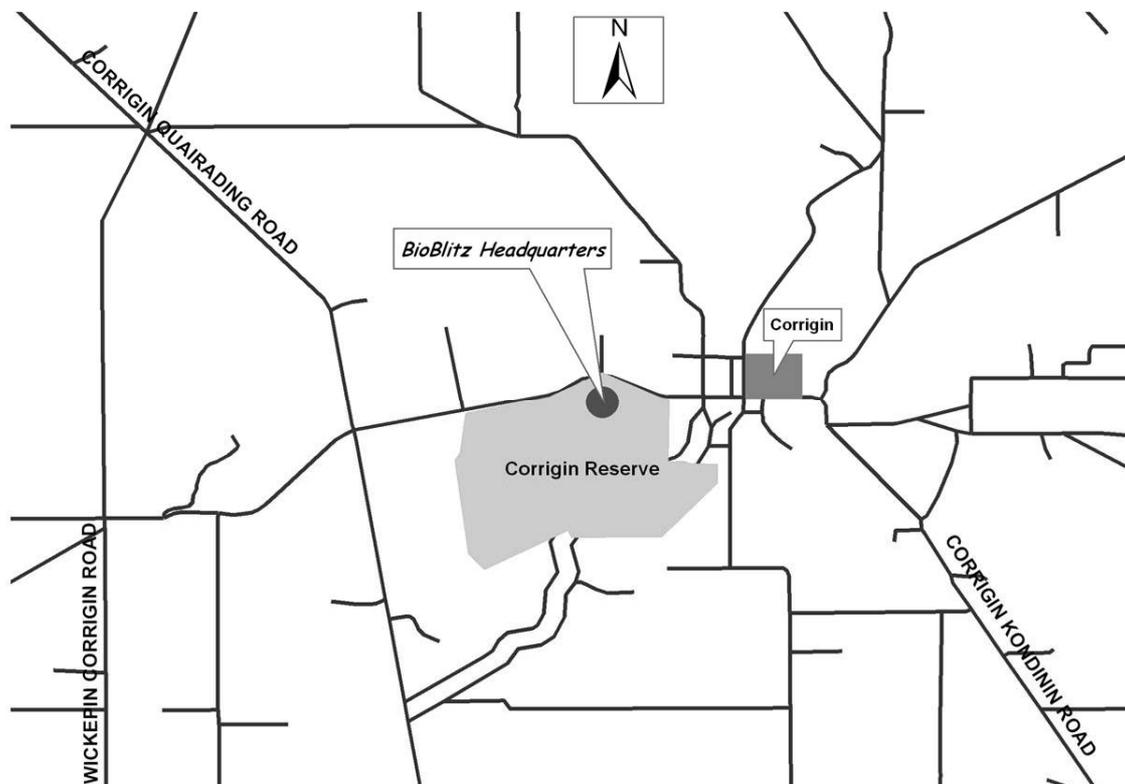
The function centre is where the inaugural Qorrigin Quiz will also take place from 8pm on Saturday evening. Questions will test local, environmental and general knowledge, with a few curly ones in there as well!

Please note that although camp sites and toilet and shower facilities are provided free of charge, you will need to provide your own camping equipment. There are paved areas available for caravans if desired.

3. Transport

Parking spaces near the reserve are limited, so buses have been booked for the field components of Bioblitz and will be used wherever possible.

Upon arrival on the 18th participants will be asked to park at either The Cyril Box Recreation Reserve (a great opportunity to grab a good campsite and set up your tent) where you will be picked up by bus at 11.30am and taken out to the Lookout, or to park at the Dog Cemetery where a bus will pick you up at 11.45am and transport you to the Lookout.



Itinerary

Saturday - 18th :

11.00 -11.30 Arrive at 'The Cyril Box Recreation Reserve' and set up camp. A bus will arrive at 11.30 to pick you up and take you to the lookout. There will also be a bus picking up people from the Dog Cemetery carpark at 11.45 to transport them to the Lookout.

11:30 - 12:00 noon: Arrive at The Corrigin Reserve. Make way to 'Lews Lookout'. Register attendance.

12.00pm: General welcome to participants. *Sally McPhee, WWF Community Engagement Project Officer.*

12.10pm: Welcome to Country. *Local elder*

12:20pm: Official opening. Julian Murphy, CEO, Corrigin Shire

12.30pm: Lunch & sign up for activities

1.00 – 4pm: Activity 1

4.00 – 7pm: Activity 2

7.00pm: Dinner begins in Corrigin.

8.00pm: The inaugural 'Qorrigin Quiz' begins. Participants form teams and battle for supremacy (and some great prizes too!)

9:00pm: Quiz ends. Champions crowned. Participants make sure they have signed up for the next day's events and set their alarm clocks.

Sunday - 19th :

5.00am: Breakfast begins to be served (until 8.30am).

5.30am: Participants for Activity 3 meet and make way out to reserve.

6 – 9am: Activity 3.

8.30am: Participants for Activity 4 meet and make way out to reserve.

9am -12 pm: Activity 4

10.00am: Participants from Activity 3 have morning tea and help to collate data.

12.00 noon: Lunch at 'The Lookout,' Corrigin Reserve.

12.30pm: Wrap up of event.

1.00pm: Close. Participants pack up and head home.

ACTIVITIES.

Saturday - 18th :

Activity 1: 1 pm to 4 pm.

- 1A. Tracks and Scats – Setting up sand traps and collecting scats for identification. *Sally McPhee (WWF)*
- 1B. Flora/Insect walk – Conduct a flora survey while simultaneously searching for insects. *Eric McCrum & Robin Campbell*
- 1C. Corrigin Grevillea – Visit the translocation site and learn about this threatened plant unique to Corrigin. *Bob Dixon (Kings Park and Botanic Gardens)*
- 1D. Malleefowls and Trapdoor Spiders – Search for signs of these elusive birds, reportedly seen in the area, but not yet confirmed. Also search for and record threatened trapdoor spiders. *Carl Danzi (WWF) and Mick Davis (DEC)*
- 1E. Pit trap construction and set-up – Build the pitfall traps you will check the next morning. *Stewart Lee and Mike Griffiths (WWF)*

Activity 2: 4 pm to 7 pm.

- 2A. Small mammal survey. Set & bait Elliot traps to check the next morning. *Katie Watson (DEC)*
- 2B. Small mammal survey. Set & bait Elliot traps to check the next morning. *Tam Lee-Steere (DEC)*
- 2C. Pitfall trap opening. Open traps, spray for ants and ensure all in working order. *Mike Griffiths (WWF)*
- 2D. Pitfall trap opening. Open traps, spray for ants and ensure all in working order. *Stewart Lee*
- 2E. Bird & bat banding. Catch birds and bats in mist nets and band them for identification. *Stephen Davies*
- 2F. Bird walk. Identify birds by call and hopefully sight as the bush comes alive. *Cheryl Gole (WWF)*

Sunday - 19th :

Activity 3: 6 am to 9 am.

- 3A. Small mammal survey. Check Elliot and cage traps, record information, collect traps. *Katie Watson (DEC)*
- 3B. Small mammal survey. Check Elliot traps, record information, collect traps. *Tam Lee-Steere (DEC)*
- 3C. Pitfall trap checking. Check traps, record information, dismantle & collect traps. *Mike Griffiths (WWF)*
- 3D. Pitfall trap checking. Check traps, record information, dismantle & collect traps. *Stewart Lee*
- 3E. Bird & bat banding. Catch birds and bats in mist nets and band them for identification. *Stephen Davies*

Activity 4: 9 am to 12 pm.

- 4A. Tracks and Scats – Analysing sand traps and collecting scats for identification. *Sally McPhee (WWF)*
- 4B. Flora/Insect walk – Conduct a flora survey while simultaneously searching for insects
- 4C. Corrigin Grevillea – Visit the translocation site and learn about this threatened plant unique to Corrigin. *Helena Mills (WWF)*
- 4D. Bird & bat banding. Catch birds and bats in mist nets and band them for identification. *Stephen Davies*
- 4F. Malleefowls and Trapdoor Spiders – Search for signs of these elusive birds, reportedly seen in the area, but not yet confirmed. Also search for and record threatened trapdoor spiders. *Carl Danzi (WWF) and Mick Davis (DEC)*

Please note: These activities are based on estimates of number of people attending. Activities may change prior to the event depending on numbers. A final program will be mailed out the week prior to the event once numbers have been finalised after the RSVP date.

WHAT TO BRING

- Clothes and footwear suitable for both sunny and wet weather conditions (closed, comfortable walking boots or shoes, long pants, long sleeve shirts).
- A torch (and spare batteries).
- Clip board, field book and pencils.
- Hat, sunglasses and sunscreen lotion.
- Raincoat.
- Any medical requirements you need.
- Water bottle – at least 2 litres per day (can be refilled at HQ).
- Camera and film, plus spare batteries.
- Small day-pack to carry your gear when walking;

WHAT TO EXPECT

Although there will be a range of activities on offer, it should not be assumed that they will be for all people. Individuals will have to assess their own fitness levels and mobility before registering for the BioBlitz and each activity. Each activity will have a recommended fitness level, which will range from easy where general fitness while walking and over uneven surfaces is required through to hard where participants will travel over loose gravel, slopes and sometimes through thick bush.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have any condition that you think the organisers should know about, please advise the BioBlitz Coordinators – Sally McPhee or Helena Mills – during registration.

Sunburn, dehydration, insect bites and blisters from walking are the most likely medical problems that may arise and you should guard against them. Loose-fitting long sleeved shirts, a broad-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen lotion (including lip balm) are essential, as are good comfortable shoes/boots for walking.

You will need to take plenty of fluids - so don't forget a water bottle.

A first aid kit will be available. Please advise a team leader of any medical problems that arise.

SAFETY & DUTY OF CARE

Your safety is of concern to everyone else, and it is expected that everyone will act in a safe and responsible manner. Take special care of the bush - remember that we're there to enjoy the natural environment. It is there for everyone's benefit and ultimate enjoyment. Wherever possible ... "take only photographs and leave only footprints."

As a basic rule, **DON'T GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT TELLING SOMEONE!** Avoiding getting lost is easy if you adhere to the following:

- In the Reserve, adopt a partner or buddy, stay in your team, and make sure they know where you are at all times;
- Stay together as a group and make sure you are not out of sight, unless of course you are going to the toilet! Even in this situation ... for your safety and to prevent false alarms you should tell your buddy or someone in the group where you're going.

WATER

Water is always limited in the bush. Bring at least 2 litres per person for the field component of the Bio Blitz. There will be a watering station where you can fill your water bottle in the field when required. In most cases it is suggested that people undertaking field activities drink at least 5 litres over a whole day to make up for lost water from perspiration and respiration.

TOILET ARRANGEMENTS

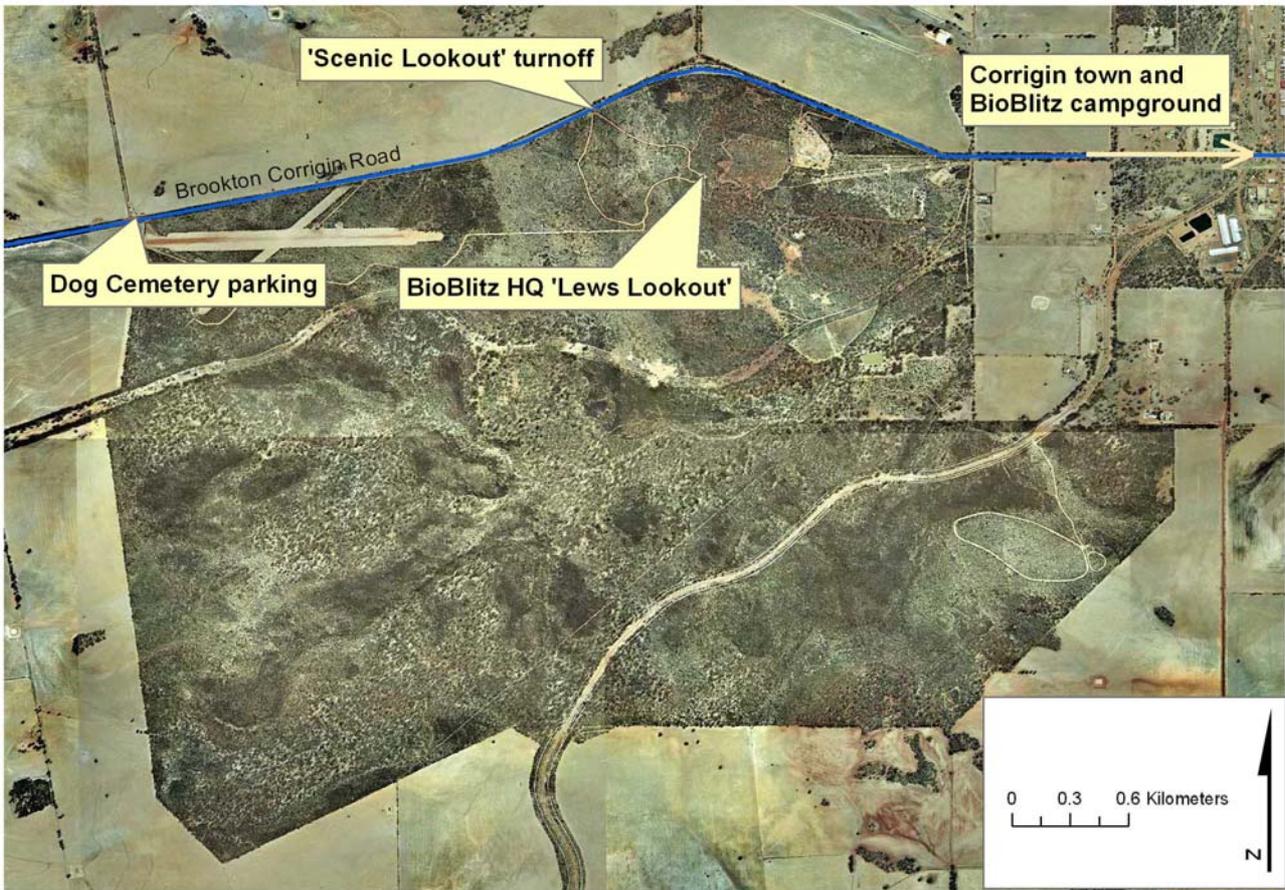
There will be a portable toilet at HQ in Corrigin Reserve. A basin with disinfectant will be available to wash hands in. The issue of waste management is important and we will need to be diligent to ensure that hygiene and environmental issues are well managed.

INSURANCE

As a BioBlitz participant you will be considered a WWF Volunteer and be covered by WWF's public liability and personal accident insurance policy. This is for the period during which participants are involved in the BioBlitz.

Registration as a volunteer is essential to participate in the field events, so please ensure you fill in the volunteer registration form when you arrive. Unregistered participants will be unable to take part in the activities.

Corrigin Reserve



2008 BIOBLITZ

CORRIGIN RESERVE, CORRIGIN

18th and 19th of October 2008

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Please email or fax by 10 October 2008 to:

Attention: Sally McPhee
Avon Community Engagement Project Officer
Email: smcphee@wwf.org.au
Fax: (08) 9621 2580

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Which project/organisation/town do you represent? OR Are you a landholder or local resident?

Will you be participating in both days' activities (for catering purposes)?

Yes

No – please indicate which day you will be attending

Do you have any special needs (i.e. dietary)?

Yes- *please explain* No

Will you be requiring a camp site at 'The Cyril Box Recreation Reserve' in Corrigin?

Yes Details _____

No

Please note that although camp sites and toilet and shower facilities are provided free of charge, you will need to provide your own camping equipment. There are paved areas available for caravans if desired.

Do you have any medical conditions that WWF should be aware of?

Yes- *please explain* No

