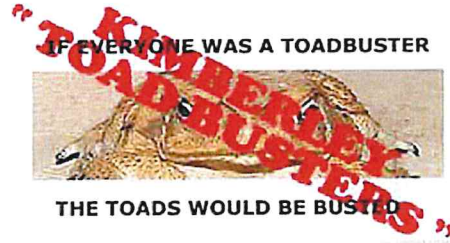


KIMBERLEY SPECIALISTS
Company for the Kimberley



We need to stop burning the Kimberley
We must stop the Cane Toad



The Cane Toad is a *Key Threatening Process* to the Australian Nation
Declared by the Federal Government 12 April 2005.



KTB Newsletter 40: 13/06/2011

This 40th Kimberley Toad Busters' Newsletter is produced by Kimberley Specialists In Research Inc in conjunction with Kimberley Toad Busters Inc. Kimberley Specialists, a founding member of the Kimberley Toad Busters, continues to support the campaign against the cane toad by supporting www.canetoads.com.au raising funds and supporting cane toad scientific research.

Prepared by John Cugley Administration Coordinator and volunteer Toad Buster since 2005.

KTBs are a tax deductible entity. Please see our website for our direct donation facility or how to sponsor toad busting or one of our research or educational projects.

IF EVERYONE WAS A TOADBUSTER, THE TOADS WOULD BE BUSTED!

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**United Nations Association of Australia
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AWARDS 2011. Winners Announced.**

To see the full article from the UNAA World Environment Day Awards 2011 go to <http://www.unaavictoria.org.au/awards-programs/>

Having been named finalists in three categories in the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards for 2011, the Kimberley Toad Busters took out the Community Award for the second year in a row. Nearly 80 years since the introduction of the Cane Toad into Australia, the Kimberley Toad Busters volunteer program is now showing clear signs that community action can mitigate the impact of toads on native biodiversity, and that with consistent and continuous efforts to take adult toads out of the system, and towards preventing major ongoing breeding cycles, we can slow the toad movement down. This community effort is also showing that an empowered community can undertake much needed scientific research and that without community efforts, government and scientists will continue to make natural resource decisions based on insufficient information.

Kimberley Toad Busters would not be able to operate without all the assistance that it receives from its volunteers and community. It is the community volunteers and voices that make Kimberley Toad Busters and their efforts possible. Without the enormous and committed energy that our wonderful Kimberley community continues to throw towards this feral menace we would not have achieved what we have. KTB are now the proud recipients of 13 major national and international awards ranging from our volunteer work with biodiversity to the highly successful biodiversity educational program. KTB would like to acknowledge that without the support of the state and Liberal governments help we would not have been able to achieve what we have today.



Melbourne. Photo by Jeremy Scott-Virtue

KTB would like to thank the founders of this amazing effort, Kimberley Specialists in Research, a non profit research organisation set up by Dean Goodgame and Lee Scott-Virtue. Both Lee and Dean continue to provide administration, technical support volunteer time towards the KTB efforts.

Lee, Dean & Ben proudly holding the awards won at the recent United Nations Association of Australia awards night in



Dean, Ben and Lee. Proud recipients for the volunteer UNNA community award. Photo by Jeremy Scott-Virtue



11 KTB volunteers were there to receive the UNNA Community Award. Photo by Jeremy Scott-Virtue

2. KTB replies to Mark Lewis "Cane toads aren't evil, just misunderstood"

In a published article that appeared on News.com.au the other week, Mark Lewis made several comments that were either not researched or out of date. KTB responds to some of these statements, and doing so compliment Mark on his continuous efforts to bring cane toads to the public.

Lewis maintains that the 'damage caused by the spread of the toads has been vastly overstated and is certainly disproportionate to the venom directed by various governments and action groups, who have exhorted citizens - including children - to make merry with golf clubs, cricket bats and chemicals'.

While Kimberley Toad Busters agree with Lewis that the toad is an amazing animal, particularly in the way that it adapts to changes in its environment, the statement "that the damage caused by the spread of the toads has been Vastly overstated" and is an inconsistent comment in regards to the more recent scientific verifications of biodiversity loss. Since the invasion of cane toads into Kakadu National Park scientists have been monitoring the loss as well as looking for any signs of 'recovery' of certain species. To date there is no record of 'recovery' and the KTB sponsored research results are indicating that the loss of native species to both the indirect and direct impact is much greater than first indicated. Frog watch has declared the Filled Neck Lizard disappears (KTB observations concur with this).

The further statement by Lewis that toad control has been "directed by various governments and action groups, who have exhorted citizens - including children - to make merry with golf clubs, cricket bats and chemicals" is disturbing. Mark Lewis spent several days with the KTB, both in the field and at our Kununurra KTB Depot filming how this community group both educates cane toads and our community group 'humanely disposes of the cane toad.

KTB have undertaken enormous and costly efforts and time to research and ensure that community disposes of toads as humanely and ethically as possible. Kimberley Toad Busters initially undertook field experiments in the use of CO₂ and determined that this was the best method for the humane and ethical killing of cane toads. Please go to our website for any information on this or email us and we would be happy to send you a copy of our field research results on the use of CO₂.

We would urge Mark to clarify in future media responses that it is almost 3 years since he worked with our community group and that the results of these consistent and still major volunteer efforts are only now showing quantitative results.

3. KTB out and about

Kimberley Toad Busters have had a very busy month, and combined with normal toad busting activities the arrival of various Ministers, media and the UNAA awards to deal with, has meant KTB have been struggling to cope with the extra workload. The activity at Toad HQ most evenings of the week is amazing, with multiple toad busts heading out to various locations. Our volunteers are from the community, with

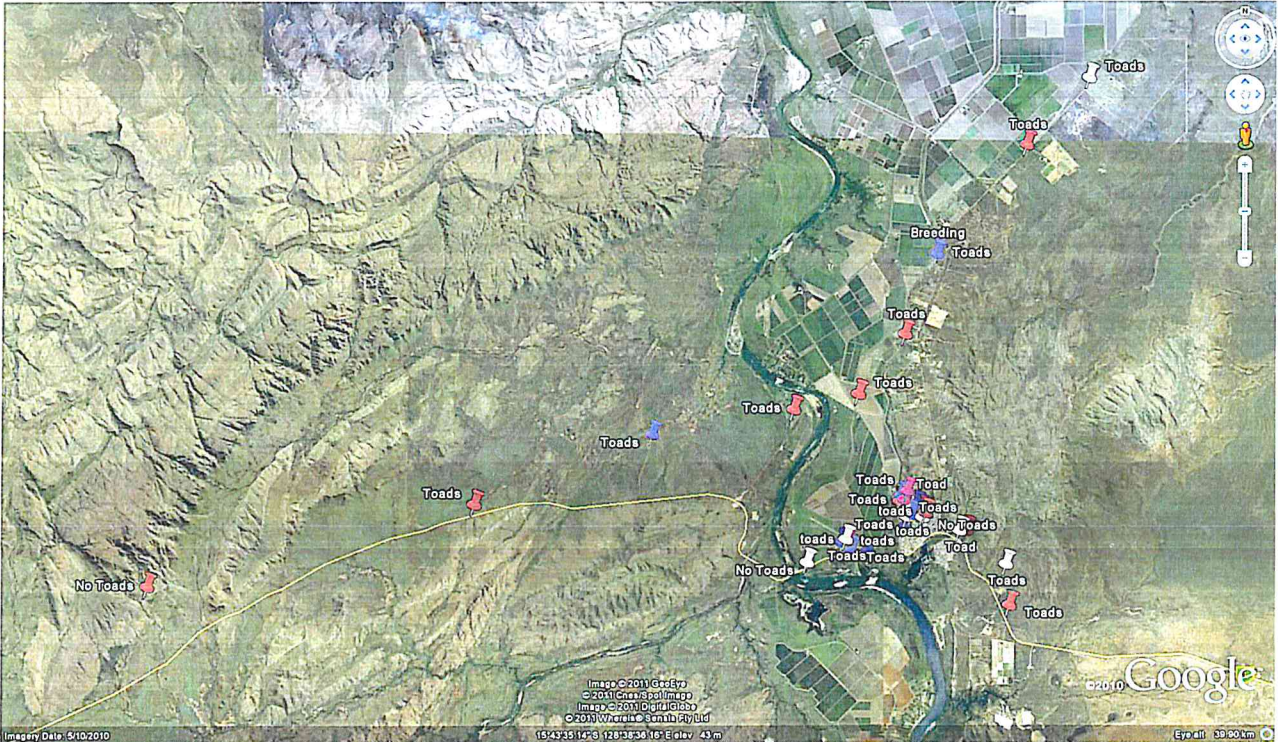
a steady stream of visitors assisting. Kimberley Toad Busters has also forged a partnership with the Ngalangangpum School (Wurman Community) while they have been in Kununurra. The kids have been participating in educational session about toads on Thursday's and then heading out into the field to toad bust that evening. KTB have also been instructing the community and the school on how to instigate and run the "What's in your backyard?" biodiversity program. KTB will continue to run this program with the community after they go back and until and after toads arrive.



KTB Field Coordinator, Ben Scott-Virtue and the Ngalangangpum School Kids at Toad HQ learning about Cane Toads

KTB have more recently re-engaged work with the Justice system to take 'need' Indigenous juveniles. Toad busting, work at the KTB depot and biodiversity survey are just some of the activities that will be implemented.

In the month of May 34 different toad busts were undertaken by KTB, with a total of 922 cane toad juveniles, 368 male and 916 female toads removed from the system. This equates to a grand total of 2206 toads removed from our environment. These figures are only those removed by KTB registered volunteers and many more toads were removed by community members who were taking care of their own 'backyards'.



KTB May 2011 Toad Busting Locations. A map showing all KTB's work since the start of the year is available at www.canetoads.com.au/googmap.htm

As usual KTB have been heard on the airwaves every Thursday on Waringarri Radio keeping the community informed on toads and their movements. KTB have also been busy with various ABC radio interviews around the country. We also had a very successful segment on the 60 Minutes program, with Ben Scott-Virtue in the chat room after the show answering questions from viewers about toads. The mail bag segment the following week had lots of letters of support for KTB and its aims. If you missed it go to the 60 Minutes website at

<http://sixtyminutes.ninemsn.com.au>

Contact John Cugley, KTB Administration Coordinator or Ben Scott-Virtue, Field Coordinator on 91682576 for further information.

***If everyone became a toad buster.
The toads would be busted!***

