

STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION

Seventy years after their release in the canefields of Queensland, cane toads have spread westward across tropical Australia at an alarming rate. The Kimberley is the only northern region still free from this noxious invader, but toads are only 200 km from the WA border. Our communities and our environment face a feral invasion the likes of which they've never seen before.

Toads are toxic. They kill anything that eats them. They breed so prolifically that they displace other species and they will eat whatever fits in their large mouths. For native species of reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds, cane toads are extinction in motion.

Any sudden loss of native species will have a catastrophic impact on Kimberley indigenous communities whose cultural and spiritual existence rely on bush tucker and totemic species. Impacts on biodiversity in the region will also damage the local economy, particularly the growing nature-based tourism sector.

But the Kimberley won't be the end of it. CSIRO projections suggest that cane toads could eventually spread right through WA. Every wetland, golf course and backyard from Kununurra to Esperance will make suitable habitat. We are all facing the prospect of living under a new kind of occupation.

Community groups and state agencies are preparing to mount the first real challenge to the spread of the cane toad by mounting a tactical assault at the Victoria River in the NT. Field traps will be deployed along the toad front with the aim of halting the invasion and pushing the front back east while long-term means of biological control are sought. Such traps have been successful in reducing toads numbers at infested waterholes and homes in the Territory.

The Stop the Toad Foundation has been established to fund and oversee the community effort to keep WA cane toad free. It will deploy trapping, monitoring and hand-mustering operations in co-operation with CALM, equipping and training community groups to contribute to the effort.

This is a massive undertaking in every sense. But it is a project that promises to unite people from every aspect of our community. For when it comes to defending country and heritage we are convinced that Western Australians will rise to the challenge.



barwick estates

STOP THE TOAD
KEEP WA CANE TOAD FREE
stopthetoad.com Conservation Council of WA +61 8 9420 7266



'FROM KAKADU TO THE KIMBERLEY'



John Michael Challen, 120X90mm Oil on Canvas

"Twin Falls" Kakadu National Park

Artists who are kindly contributing art
towards this exhibition include:

SHEILA BENFORD
WILLIAM BOISSEVAIN
MICHAEL CHALLEN
BRENDON DARBY
JEREMY HOLTON
DIANA JOHNSTONE
DOUGLAS KIRSOP
SUZANNE LINDHORST
MARK NORVAL
NARELLE PENDLEBURY
KEN RASMUSSEN
BEVERLEY SKURULIS
SALLY SMITH
SANTINA STRANSKY
DONNY WOOLAGOODJA
WARMUN COMMUNITY
MOWANJUM COMMUNITY

Their support is greatly appreciated by
The Stop The Toad Foundation

STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION

patron
TIM WINTON
and board member
LUC LONGLEY
with special guests

JOHN MICHAEL CHALLEN and MALCOLM DOUGLAS

Invite you to join them for an evening of
ART AND ACTIVISM

An Exhibition to assist the communities effort to

KEEP WA CANE TOAD FREE

Entry by Invitation only

Entrance Fee \$20

CHALLEN & RAFFERTY FINE ART

207 Railway Rd Subiaco (Opposite the Daglish Railway Station)

RSVP : 9381 7905 Email : belinda@challenandrafferty.com

The Foundation and its supporters extend their warm thanks to Michael and Fiona of Challen & Rafferty and contributing artists for such a commitment to conservation and heritage in offering us this opportunity.