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Toad Audit

FrogWatch (North) is conducting a major project to minimize the damage cane toads do to our top-end ecosystems and wildlife. The community cane toad control initiative has been supported with funding by the NT government and is based on the fact that only through mass community effort can we stop cane toads from destroying our unique top end environment. If we are successful you will see animals like Frill-neck Lizards in our parks, schools and backyards in three years time, if not these unique animals, and many others will be gone from our lives.

Frogwatch is asking all households to check their yards and nearby parks and public lands for cane toads on August 18. This is the 70th anniversary of the first release of toads into Australia on August 18 1935. We need you to let us know what you find. Even if there are no toads it is useful for us to know that. Please report what you find to either the hotline 1800243564 or email us on toadreport@frogwatch.org.au.

We want people to send us information about any toads sighted or captured and also any public areas checked which were clear of toads. This information will help us to schedule community 'ToadMusters' later in the dry season.

If you see a toad please catch it and contact FrogWatch as we want them. – alive preferably.

What do you do on the night?

Basically you need to walk around the areas with a light to see if there are any toads around. Adult cane toads spend the daytime under cover and come out at night. They will go to wet areas to get water and also into open spaces, especially areas with lights, to feed. A good idea is to turn on the outside lights and then go out with a torch and have a look around. Areas of short grass such as lawns are favorite hunting areas for toads.

In parks and reserves they will be around wet areas and cleared well lit areas as well. You do not need to go looking under things or into thick bushes looking for toads at night, they will be in more obvious spots.

Once you have looked around email a short note to toadreport@frogwatch.org.au. If you find a toad email us or add the record to the FrogWatch website or call the toad hotline 1800243564.

FrogWatch will give prizes for the biggest and ugliest toads, but they need to be alive.

SO FAR WE HAVE HAD TOADS CAUGHT IN DARWIN CITY, WAGAMAN, MOIL, BERRIMAH, BAYVIEW, WULAGI, HOWARD SPRINGS, HUMPTYDOO NOONAMAH AND BERRY SPRINGS. Toads could be anywhere, either as a part of the advancing frontline of toads or hitchhikers which have been transported ahead of the main front.

For details see the FrogWatch website <http://www.frogwatch.org.au>.

Yours truly,

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