

THE GREAT TOAD MUSTER



SAVE THE KIMBERLEY FROM THE CANE TOAD

Sept 11 to Oct 11, 2010

Kununurra, Western Australia

RESULTS

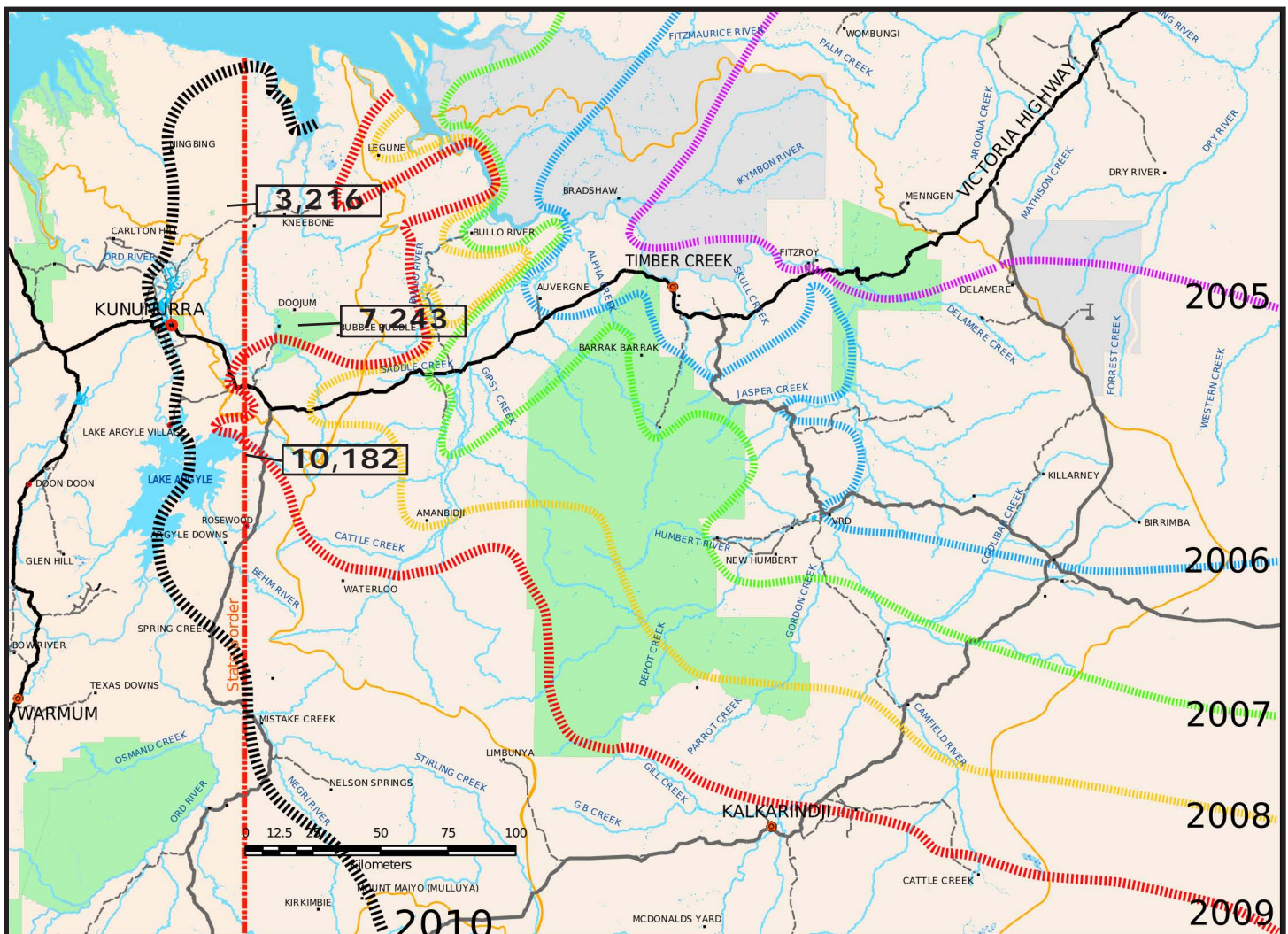
RESULTS: THE GREAT TOAD MUSTER 2010

Stop the Toad's fifth annual Great Toad Muster was held from 11th September until 11th October 2010. The focus in previous years has been to reduce the number of cane toads entering WA. The aim for the 2010 Muster was to protect biologically significant areas surrounding the WA/NT border, as well as trying to reduce the number of cane toads already in The Kimberley and heading towards the Kimberley. To achieve these goals, three base camps were set up near Point Springs Nature Reserve, inside the Keep River National Park and on the edges of the Ramsar listed Lake Argyle.

A total of **20,641** cane toads, as well as 18kgs of metamorphs and 8kgs tadpoles, were removed from these significant areas with your help. This figure may be lower than previous years, but is due to the fact that our focus changed from trying to remove as many toads as possible to protecting specific areas from toads. We were also working very close to the frontline, so toads had not had the chance to establish large populations in these areas.

Breakdown of results - Total 20,641

Look out Springs base camp	3,216
Keep River National Park base camp	7,243
Lake Argyle- Matilda creek base camp	10,182



POINT SPRING NATURE RESERVE FENCE PROJECT

A very exciting project that took place during the Muster was the Point Spring Nature Reserve fencing project. In conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), STTF attached 2km of toad proof fence to an existing cattle fence inside the nature reserve. The aim is to keep toads out of this unique rainforest system while allowing native animals to move freely in and out of the fenced area.

Adjustments were made to the fence to account for native snakes, bandicoots, blue-tongue lizards and wallabies (see pictures below). The motion detector cameras set along the fence as part of Pippa's honours project will hopefully give us more of an insight into the interactions between native animals, toads and the fence. These data could then be used to determine future land management control methods for toads. Thankyou to everyone who put alot of effort and blood, sweat and tears into the first ever toad fence in Western Australia!



A SPECIAL THANKYOU

My deepest gratitude goes to all those who volunteered their time and efforts at this year's Muster. Special thanks must be made to the set up and pack down crew- never an easy job in 45 degree heat or early wet season storms. Special thanks also goes to Delma Edwards, Michael Lohf, Reg Geary, Frank Longbottom, Gary Pike, Patsy Harmer, Brendan McGill, Lucy Simnett and Jim Rasmussen, who all played vital roles in the logistics of this years Muster. You make my job so much easier and so worth it.
Love Kim xxx