

Stop the Toad Foundation Annual Report 2011/12





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BACKGROUND

The STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (STTF) is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation incorporated in Western Australia in October 2005.

When field operations began in 2006, the Foundation's main aim was to prevent cane toads from invading Western Australia. During the 2006-2010 Great Toad Musters, STTF removed 175,000 cane toads heading towards WA, but was not able to entirely prevent them from entering the State. In 2011, The Foundation decided to change its strategy of toad control to protect specific high biodiversity areas and create sanctuary zones for native wildlife using exclusion fences.

Directing the evolution of STTF's cane toad control strategy are two governing documents; The Federal Government's Cane Toad Threat Abatement Plan and The State Government's Cane Toad Strategy. Both documents acknowledge that there is a need to move away from broad-scale control and eradication to the protection of key biodiversity assets, and that community action is still an important part of minimizing the toads' impact.

The Committee of Management of the STTF was established at an inaugural AGM on 27 October 2005. It has held 6 meetings in the 2011/12 financial year.

This report covers the period from 1 July 2011 to the end of its seventh financial year, 30 June 2012.



A Merten 's water monitor (Varanus mertensii) basks in the sun at Emma Gorge, El Questro Wilderness Park

OBJECTS OF ASSOCIATION

- (a) To prevent the migration of cane toads into Western Australia.
- (b) To fund, develop, install and operate toad trapping devices and other toad control mechanisms with the aim of preventing cane toads entering Western Australia.
- (c) To protect Western Australia's native fauna and flora from the infestation of cane toads.
- (d) To educate the public on the risks and danger posed by cane toads and the ways to prevent the migration of cane toads into Western Australia.
- (e) To conduct and finance research into the development of effective methods of controlling, reducing or eliminating cane toad populations.
- (f) To implement cane toad control measures in Western Australia in the event that populations of cane toads are established in the State.
- (g) To carry out activities that promote or to facilitate the above objectives, including fund raising activities.
- (h) To establish and maintain a public fund to be called the "Stop the Toad Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects/purposes of the Association. The Public Fund is established to receive all gifts of money or property for this purpose and any money received because of such gifts must be credited to the Public Fund Bank Account. The Public Fund must not receive any other money or property into the Public Fund Bank Account and it must also comply with subdivision 30-E of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Stop The Toad Foundation (Inc.) Rules of Association - Clause



STTF staff Kim Hands and volunteer Gary Pike carry out a workshop on fencing for QLD landowners.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Cane toads are a noxious pest. Since their misguided release into the sugar cane fields of Queensland seventy-seven years ago they have spread in vast numbers across northern Australia, from Queensland into the Northern Territory, with disastrous results for native wildlife. And now they are in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Community groups here and in the Northern Territory have worked tirelessly to slow the toads down and, I'm pleased to say, without these efforts, toads would have reached the Kimberley a lot sooner than they have. Our committee members, patron, staff and volunteers deserve every credit for their efforts to bring people and ideas together in the cause of toad control.

We now stand at the end of our seventh year of operations and our results to date are enormously encouraging. After wide consultation with scientists, indigenous stakeholders, and toad specialists from all over Australia we are better placed than we were seven years ago to have an impact on the cane toad, on the ground.

The Foundation's Committee of Management is enormously grateful for the wave of support we have benefited from. Thanks go especially to our primary sponsor, the ABN Foundation. Without their support for the past six years, we could not have achieved as much as we have. Special thanks also go to Argyle Diamond Mine (Rio Tinto), The McCusker Foundation, Matso's Broome Brewery, Carlton United Breweries, The Australian Geographic Society and El Questro Wilderness Park (Delaware North).

But most importantly to all those volunteers who did their bit to reduce the cane toad impact in WA this year, those who cooked, drove, answered phones, created spread sheets, spoke to schoolkids, told their friends and relatives, charged batteries, or caught, killed and counted toads in the heat, thank you and congratulations on an amazing effort.

On behalf of the Committee of Management of the Stop The Toad Foundation I would also like to thank our staff who worked so hard and so well under such testing circumstances to maximize and guide the volunteer effort this seventh year.

Russell Gueho

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Chairperson
Stop The Toad Foundation (Inc.)



Russell Gueho STTF Chairperson

TOADS IN A NUTSHELL

Cane toads (*Bufo marinus*, revised to *Rhinella marina*) were introduced into Australia in 1935 in an attempt to control pest beetles in the sugar cane industry. They were unsuccessful in their control efforts, but very successful at invading the ecosystems of Australia's north. Cane toads were originally released in Gordonvale in Queensland, but have spread west and south to now cover 1/3 of Australia.

As cane toads have spread across Australia, they have left a trail of ecological destruction in their path. They affect native wildlife in complex and numerous ways including lethal toxic ingestion for predators, predation on native species and competition for food and habitat. Key species that have been shown to be directly negatively affected by cane toads in Queensland and the NT include goannas, freshwater crocodiles, snakes, quolls and native frogs.

Over the past 25 years, there has been a lot of effort and both Federal and State Government's funding poured into research for a biological solution to control the cane toad. Some ideas have included using a virus to interfere with the metamorphosis process, the introduction of sterile males into the population, using sex pheromones to attract toads and lure them into a trap, and using a lung parasite to weaken the population. Despite scientists' best efforts, an answer has not been found.

Community groups across Australia have also put a huge amount of effort into controlling toads using manual methods such as hand collection, trapping and fencing. Whilst this effort has played an important educative role in the community, it also hasn't managed to eradicate toads in Australia.

The first cane toad was found at the Northern Territory/Western Australia border in February 2009. They have since moved 200kms west into The Kimberley and have spread through The Purnululu National Park. There is great concern that if toad numbers aren't controlled, they will decimate many species that are unique to Western Australia. CSIRO predictions warn that unless stopped, cane toads will colonise Perth and could even eventually infest areas as far south as Margaret River.

The downstream environmental, social, economic, health and cultural impacts of toad colonisation of Western Australia (and in other areas of Australia) are potentially enormous. The impact on tourism in the Kimberley alone could be worth many millions of dollars each year.

STTF is committed to thorough exploration of all potential methods to eradicate or significantly impact upon the advancing front and protecting sites of State and National significance within Western Australia.

THE STTF STRATEGY

The STTF cane toad strategy has always been centered around an annual Muster; a volunteer, community based event aimed to stop toads entering WA. Unfortunately, toads crossed over the WA/NT border in 2009 and our strategy has therefore had to change. It has evolved from trying to keep toads out of an entire state to trying to keep toads out of specific areas. Fortunately this evolution has been partnered with the development of a very successful management tool- cane toad exclusion fencing.

The Foundation developed exclusion fencing in 2007 and trialled it on a broad basis during the 2008 Muster. The fencing strategy was found to be extremely efficient during the 2008 Muster as well as during trials by Frogwatch in the NT, so was used again during the 2009 and 2010 Musters. Exclusion fencing has contributed to the removal of 130,000 cane toads during the last three Musters and was used on both man-made and natural water bodies with equal success.

Directing the evolution of STTF's cane toad control strategy are two governing documents; The Federal Government's Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) and The State Government's State Cane Toad Strategy (SCTS). Both documents acknowledge that there is a need to move away from broad-scale control and eradication to the protection of key biodiversity assets, and that community action is still an important part of minimising the toads' impact.

Using these documents to guide the Foundation, as well as our own successes, the strategy during the 2011-12 financial year was dramatically different from that in the previous years.

The Sanctuary Model

In the past, STTF has used temporary fencing to remove large numbers of toads and eradicate toad populations where they already existed. In 2011, STTF used permanent fencing in an attempt to keep toads out of Emma Gorge in the El Questro Wilderness Park. This project is the first ever attempt in Australia at **creating a 'toad-free sanctuary'** and studying the biodiversity of the surrounding area before and after toads arrive.

The Emma Gorge fence is 2kms in total and was erected with the help of 8 volunteers in 18 days. It was completed in October 2011, ready for when toads arrived in March 2012. STTF will continue to work with El Questro management, Delaware North, over the next three years to manage this 'first-ever' permanent fencing trial and attempt to keep as many toads as possible out of this unique gorge. We will make a special effort to monitor the weaker sections of the fence and manage fire, and the impact of the fence, if any, on native animals.

The Emma Gorge Sanctuary Project is an exciting project. It has huge potential that if successful may set an example for other areas in Australia to follow. The total cost - \$6639- is not that much to invest to keep toads out of one of the most iconic gorges in The Kimberley. A biological or genetic solution to cane toads may still be 10-20 years away. Until that time, this project represents a pro-active solution to keeping unique wildlife areas cane toad free.

REPORT ON ACTIVITY

This report on the achievements of the Stop The Toad Foundation should be read in conjunction with the Foundation's Strategic Plan (see Appendix 1).

1) OPERATIONS AND TRAINING:

<u>Primary Goal:</u> To implement the most thorough on-ground control operations achievable to slow, and if possible halt, the westward movement of cane toads; and to effectively deal with any (hitch-hiker) outbreaks ahead of the front.

<u>Secondary Goal:</u> In the advent of cane toads entering Western Australia, to minimise their spread and the harm they do to natural systems and ecological communities.

- Liaised with the Department of Environment and Conservation and Kimberley Toad Busters (KTB) and local landholders to collect intelligence on the extent and position of the current toad front line.
- STTF created the first ever 'toad-free sanctuary' at Emma Gorge, El Questro by erecting a 2km toad fence at the base of the gorge.
- Field trips to the control area for the purposes of:
 - > surveillance
 - > site evaluation for fencing trials
 - trapping and hand-capture operations
 - Base-camp sites
- Volunteer recruitment and training:
 - ➤ Held information evenings throughout the State
 - Organise all food, accommodation and transport from Kununurra for volunteers
 - Provide all on-ground training to volunteers
 - Arrange volunteer insurance via DEC and ensure their health and safety at all times
 - Ensure our team leaders in the field have first aid training
- Ran a series of workshops in Queensland in conjunction with the Murray-Darling Committee on the use of toad control fences. STTF staff and volunteers visited Roma, Mitchell, Miles and Oakey to introduce the concept of exclusion fencing to land owners.

2) LOGISTICS:

<u>Primary Goal: To deploy the necessary people, machinery, equipment and supplies reliably and cost-effectively - where needed, when needed.</u>

• Continued to employ a Strategic Campaign Manager throughout the 2011/12 financial year. The position was full time from July 2011-December 2012 and part-time from January 2012-June 2012.

- Developed a strategy for recruiting volunteers for The Emma Gorge Sanctuary project.
- Maintained two second-hand Toyota troop carriers and other essential equipment to operational readiness.
- Established asset management and maintenance regimes for vehicles, machinery and other equipment.
- Initiated logistical planning regimes for on-ground control operations including toad surveillance work in preparation for The Emma Gorge Sanctuary Project.
- Liaised with El Questro Wilderness Park management, independent scientists and the Australian Geographic Society for the Emma Gorge Sanctuary Project.
- Purchased materials to undertake fencing during the Emma Gorge Sanctuary project.



Volunteers from the Australian Geographic Society expedition on the Emma Gorge Sanctuary Project.

INFORMATION (& COMMUNICATIONS):

Primary Goal: To establish and maintain high levels of information flow, to and from the Foundation, which maximise:

a) intelligence gathering to satisfy our knowledge needs, and
b) stakeholder awareness, participation and support

 Continued to raise the profile of the issue to all Australians, especially those in the populous south of the State. 30 press, radio and TV interviews were produced and conducted in the 2011/12 financial year (see Appendix 2 for full details).

- Conducted over 20 awareness raising exercises all over Australia, such as talks to schools and interested clubs, and ran a series of educational workshops in Queensland (see Appendix 3 for full details).
- Maintained STTF website to promote awareness of the issue and act as a conduit for enquiries, donations, etc. The website contains:
 - o All relevant information on the activities of, and publications by STTF
 - o A comprehensive list of links to STTF media releases
 - o A secure online donations facility
 - o An automated letter page through which supporters could make relevant politicians aware of their opinions
 - o An opt-in/opt-out eNewsletter list
 - Updates and e-newsletters relating to ongoing activities of the Foundation
- Produced printed materials for use in awareness raising and to build support for the campaign, including:
 - o The Emma Gorge Sanctuary Project report; numerous copies sent to potential supporters
 - o The Emma Gorge Sanctuary Project information sheet and posters; to be displayed at El Questro Wilderness Park
- Continued to function as a member of the Stakeholders Reference Group (SRG) in Kununurra administered by DEC for all those involved in cane toad control in WA.
- Undertook many contacts with WA and Federal Ministers for Environment, and encouraged them to support on-ground community-based control initiatives.
- Conducted ongoing liaison with available expertise in cane toad ecology/behaviour and control techniques.
- Maintained a database of more than 2500 individuals and organisations interested in the issue. Distributed monthly e-newsletters to those on the database.

4) ADMINISTRATION (AND FUNDRAISING):

<u>Primary Goal:</u> To develop and operate an administration which effectively supports the work of the Foundation while remaining as lean as possible.

- The Foundation only employs one full time staff member, Kim Hands, as the Campaign Manager. As part of her duties, she carries out administrative duties.
- The engagement of volunteers to assist with administrative tasks such as mail outs, organising volunteer evenings and plans for The Emma Gorge Sanctuary project.

- Ensured appropriate and adequate insurance cover for all staff and volunteers and developed a risk management plan.
- The Foundation's identified objective of finding cost effective approaches to operating from multiple locations was met by:
 - o Forging an agreement with the Conservation Council of WA to be:
 - providers of key administrative functions (e.g. book keeping),
 - a centre of Perth-based operations, and
 - 'front-of-house' for the Foundation (phone number, reception, etc.)

Fundraising:

- Fundraising is important to the ongoing success and achievement of the Foundation's aims. STTF successfully secured a further \$65,000 in 2011 from a philanthropic foundation to fund operations for the Foundation.
- We received support from the McCusker Foundation and Rio Tinto specifically for the Emma Gorge Sanctuary Project.
- Continued relationship with Matso's Broome Brewery where 10 cents from every glass of 'Hit the Toad' lager is donated to the Foundation to assist with the ongoing battle against the toad.
- Continued relationship with Carlton United Breweries where \$1 from every carton of Carlton Mid sold in the northwest of WA is donated to STTF.
- The STTF website has an online donation system, which receives weekly donations between \$20-\$1000.
- STTF sells car bumper stickers for \$2 to raise funds the Foundations operations.



A cane toad is blocked by one of STTF's exclusion fences.

POSTCRIPT: A BRIEF REPORT ON THE EMMA GORGE SANCTUARY PROJECT

A report on the Emma Gorge fence is available in entirety on STTF's website www.stopthetoad.org.au however the following is a summary.

The aim for the Emma Gorge fence line was to have it erected before toads reached the area. During the planning stages of the project (early 2011), the western frontline of toads was 30kms west of Kununurra, only 40kms away from Emma Gorge. It was assumed they would move at a rate of at least 55km a year and that toads would reach Emma Gorge by the end of 2011. It was therefore essential to have the toad fence at Emma Gorge erected during the 2011 northern dry season. The construction of the fence was carried out in two parts; the existing 1.4km cattle fence was converted into a toad proof fence in May 2011, and the extension of the fence 300m up either side of the escarpment took place in September 2011.

Toads reached Emma Gorge in March 2012. STTF staff and volunteers, El Questro Wilderness Park staff and Australian Geographic Society staff and volunteers have been monitoring their movements and continuously busting the area for toads since this time. The Australian Geographic Society carried out the second biodiversity survey of the Emma Gorge area in April 2012 to determine if toads had an impact on the surrounding wildlife since their arrival and the first biodiversity survey in June 2011. Results are still to be determined.

The Emma Gorge toad fence represents the first-ever attempt at keeping toads out of a specific area. It is largely a trial and the weaker sections of the fence line (the cattle grid, the permanent water crossings and the escarpment) have been continuously monitored throughout the course of the project. During the 2011/12 wet season, the detachable section of fence that sits across the permanent water crossings was taken down to allow increased volumes of water and debris to freely flow out of Emma Creek. Unfortunately, toads reached Emma Gorge during this time and some managed to enter the gorge, most likely tracking up Emma Creek line. As soon as this was discovered, the detachable part of the fence was replaced and toads that had managed to make it inside the fence were removed.

Fire is also a potential risk to the fence. Fire can be a natural part of the environment and the activities of management agencies; pastoralists; indigenous peoples or vandals can influence its effects. The fence is primarily constructed of nylon shade cloth, which is relatively cheap, easily handled but not fire resistant. A firebreak has been placed on either side of the 1.4km section of fence that is at ground level. The remaining 600m of the fence runs up the escarpment surrounding Emma Gorge and it is impossible to get a grader along this section of the fence. In September 2011, there was a large fire on El Questro that burnt most of the Cockburn Ranges. It also burnt the top sections of the fence. STTF staff and volunteers replaced this in early October 2011.

Since completion in October 2011, the fence line has required relatively little maintenance. There have been some holes in the shade cloth that have been easily and cheaply patched up. They were most likely made by goannas. After the 2011/12 wet season, vegetation that had re-grown along the fence was cleared and the firebreaks along the bottom section of the fence were rebuilt. These will be a constant management requirement, but in summary, there has been relatively little additional costs of the fence since completion.

The Emma Gorge Sanctuary Project will run for at least another two years, and depending on its success, continue for years after that. It has huge potential that if successful may set an example for other areas in Australia to follow.

THE YEAR AHEAD

We stand at the end of our seventh year of operations with encouraging results. The Foundation was responsible for creating the first ever 'toad-free sanctuary' trial in The Kimberley region of Western Australia, and to date the trial has been a large success.

During the following financial year, STTF will continue to monitor the success of the Emma Gorge fence trial. In conjunction with scientists and the Australian Geographic Society, the Foundation will carry out the third biodiversity survey in the Emma Gorge area in early-mid 2013 to determine the impact of the toad on native wildlife.

It is important that the fence continues to be monitored for native wildlife impacts, presence of toads and any required maintenance. The fence line is conveniently located 1km away from the Emma Gorge resort, where El Questro staff are stationed all year round. This makes it very easy to include monitoring the fence as a weekly, or even daily, routine at no cost. El Questro hopes to create a new wildlife tour along the fence line in late 2012, which will also help to monitor the fence and its success.

STTF will search for other areas in The Kimberley, like Emma Gorge, where a permanent fence could be erected to protect the site from toads as per Action 18 and 26 of the State Cane Toad Strategy. These actions will also support the **objectives stated in the Federal Government's Threat Abatement Plan for** cane toads. Due to funding constraints, however, this may not be possible.

STTF will also continue to run our education program aimed at raising the awareness of the cane toad issue in W.A. and encourage members of the public to become involved in the fight against the toad.

The Stop the Toad Foundation is dedicated to the defence of Western Australia's biodiversity and is committed to fighting the toad in a strategic manner, bringing teams of volunteers and professionals together in a complementary action.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP:

The Committee of Management of the Stop The Toad Foundation Inc. is comprised of:

- Chairperson: Russell Gueho (Northern Habitat Kununurra)
- Vice-chair: Dr Andrew Storey (University of WA)
- Treasurer: Kenneth Bradley (Workability)
- Secretary: Vacant position
- Robert Edel (DLA Phillips Fox)

The Foundation's Patron is WA author Tim Winton.

(At the time of the Foundation's AGM 5th December 2011).

APPENDIX 1: STRATEGIC PLAN

As well as the Seasonal Strategy, an overarching strategic plan for the activity of the organisation has been in development. It identifies the following goals and key objectives and these have shaped the Foundation's activity throughout the year:

1) Operations and Training

<u>Primary Goal:</u> To implement the most thorough on-ground control operations achievable to slow, and if possible halt, the westward movement of cane toads; and to effectively deal with any (hitchhiker) outbreaks ahead of the front.

<u>Secondary Goal:</u> In the advent of cane toads entering Western Australia, to minimise their spread and the harm they do to natural systems and ecological communities.

- Conduct on-ground cane toad control activities to deliver maximum impact on the advance of the front.
- Design and implement a rapid response capability to effectively deal with toad incursions ahead of the front (by toads which hitchhike on vehicles), in concert with responsible government agencies.
- Develop a culture of safety and implement and maintain robust safety procedures at all times for all Foundation staff and volunteers.
- Develop a training program, which ensures that all Foundation staff and volunteers are adequately prepared for all activities and all foreseeable contingencies.
- Develop and promote sound holding and disposal procedures for toads captured.
- Protect the environment in all phases of operations to the maximum extent possible.

2) Logistics

<u>Primary Goal: To deploy the necessary people, machinery, equipment and supplies reliably and cost-effectively - where needed, when needed.</u>

- Establish cost-effective and secure processes for provisioning of all field activities.
- Develop a transport capability for moving people, machinery, equipment and supplies through the landscape.

- Establish a vehicle and equipment control register including repair and maintenance schedules for all STTF assets.
- Establish cost-effective production processes for traps and other in-field requirements.
- Establish temporary field operations centres as required.

3) Information

<u>Primary Goal: To establish and maintain high levels of information</u> flow, to and from the Foundation, which maximise:

- <u>intelligence gathering to satisfy our knowledge needs,</u> <u>and</u>
- stakeholder awareness, participation and support
 - Create and maintain awareness of, and support for, the Foundation and its objectives and activities at local, state and national levels.
 - Establish relationship with a broad range of stakeholders prepared to assist the Foundation achieve its objectives.
 - Identify clear, simple and direct pathways for interested parties to find ways of assisting and engaging the Foundation.
 - Identify all Foundation knowledge needs and ways to fulfil them.
 - Identify all Foundation Research and Development priorities and develop plans to satisfy them.
 - Satisfy all needs for centralised information and data management on toads, control results, volunteers and stakeholders.

4) Administration

<u>Primary Goal:</u> To develop and operate an administration which effectively supports the work of the Foundation while remaining as lean as possible.

 Achieve sound but efficient Human Resource Management outcomes to ensure staff and volunteers are the right people in the right roles, adequately trained and resourced to do the job.

- Find cost effective approaches to operating from multiple locations including front of house, secretarial support, communications, financial management, accounting and auditing.
- Fulfil the Foundation's duty of care to its staff and volunteers by providing best practice risk minimisation strategies and adequate insurances at all times.
- Ensure that all licences, permissions and permits required by the organisation are in order at all times.
- Create an organisational structure and system of governance and decision making which is robust and accountable but also transparent, responsive and inclusive.
- Raise sufficient funds to enable the operations of the Foundation.

APPENDIX 2: STTF MEDIA EXPOSURE 2011/2012

DATE	MEDIA TYPE	SUBJECT		
28/07/2011	Media release	`Islands not the only Noah's ark in The Kimberley' in response to DEC's new 'Noah's ark' strategy.		
2/08/2011	Online	Kim interviewed by Geoff Vivian for 'The Kimberley Page'.		
4/08/2011	Newspaper	Kimberley Echo- Story about DEC islands included a quote by Kim on fencing off areas.		
11/08/2011	Media release	Joint media release with QLD Murray-Darling Committee in preparation for the STTF workshops.		
19/08/2011	Media release	Toads threaten southern Australia and STTF workshops in QLD.		
19/08/2011	Radio	Kim interviewed on ABC National in regards to Media release.		
31/08/2011	Online	Kim interviewed by Geoff Vivian for Science Network WA.		
13/09/2011	Radio	Kim interviewed on Waringarri radio- Kununurra local station re: what STTF are up to.		
28/09/2011	Online	Kim interviewed by Geoff Vivian for Science Network WA.		
October	Scientific Journal	Ruchira Somaweera's research on impact of cane toads on crocodiles published in Animal Conservation. STTF thanked and acknowledged.		
5/10/2011	Newspaper	Oakey Times ran a story on STTF workshops in western QLD.		
6/10/2011	Media Release	Matso's, Kimberley Accommodation show their support for STTF by donating \$12,000.		
6/10/2011	Newspaper	Kim interviewed by Kimberley Echo on Matso's support, The Emma Gorge fence and the recent QLD workshops.		
14/10/2011	Radio	Kim interviewed on Waringarri radio- Kununurra local station re: what Emma Gorge fence.		
1/11/2011	Media release	'Cane Toads. Next Stop? Perth.' In response to a toad being found in Bayswater.		
1/11/2011	Online	Kimberley Page put STTF media release on website.		
1/11/2011	Newspaper	Kim interviewed by Perth Voice in relation to media release.		
2/11/2011	Radio	Nova FM spoke about the cane toad that was found in Bayswater and that STTF was working towards toad control in WA.		

DATE	MEDIA TYPE	SUBJECT
3/11/2011	Holiday Planner	ANW Tourism asked STTF to write information on cane toads for their new Travellers Holiday Planner.
24/11/2011	Newspaper	Kim quoted in The Kimberley Echo about toads heading towards Parry's Lagoon and Wyndham.
November/ December	Magazine	17-page article in The Australian Geographic Magazine on the Kimberley expedition. Large photo of the Emma Gorge fence and Kim/STTF Troopy.
9/4/2012	Newspaper	Article in The West Australian about toads getting to The Bungle Bungles. Kim quoted saying that DEC needed to do more.
7/5/2012	Newspaper	Follow up article in The West Australian about KTB getting more access to The Bungle Bungles and STTF working at Emma Gorge.
1/6/2012	Newspaper	Kim interviewed by The West Australian about KTB getting \$300K new funding from the State Government and STTF not receiving any.
7/6/2012	Newspaper	Kim interviewed by The Echo: re fire at Point Springs and damage to the fence.
7/6/2012	Radio	Kim interviewed by ABC Kimberley re: fire at Point Springs and damage to the fence.
13/6/2012	Newspaper	Article in The West Australian on the new proposed tour along the Emma Gorge fence at El Questro, good photo of the fence and STTF volunteer Jim Rasmussen.
19/6/2012	Media Release	Australian Geographic awards and Kim being presented with the 'Young Conservationist of the Year' for her work with STTF.
21/6/2012	Newspaper	Article in The West Australian on the Australian Geographic awards.
21/6/2012	Radio	Kim interviewed on 6PR in regards to her Australian Geographic award and her work with STTF.

APPENDIX 3: STTF EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS 2011/2012

MONTH	No. PEOPLE	PRESENTATION FOR WHO AND WHERE	
AUGUST	60	Attadale Combined Probus Club, South Perth Yacht Club	
AUGUST	65	Murdoch Combined Probus Club, South Perth Yacht Club	
AUGUST	40	Women in Trades R Awesome Workshop, West Perth	
AUGUST	28	Rosebud Garden Club, Perth	
SEPTEMBER	70	Hillarys National Seniors, Hillarys	
SEPTEMBER	25	Chisholm Catholic College, Bedford	
SEPTEMBER	20	Gosnells Horticultural Society, Gosnells	
OCTOBER	30	Fencing Workshop, Roma QLD	
OCTOBER	40	Fencing Workshop, Mitchell QLD	
OCTOBER	20	Fencing Workshop, Miles QLD	
OCTOBER	35	Fencing Workshop, Oakey QLD	
OCTOBER	25	Kelmscott & Districts Garden Club, Kelmscott	
OCTOBER	85	Gardeners' Circle, South Perth	
OCTOBER	65	Attadale Probus, South Perth Yacht Club	
NOVEMBER	13	Dale District Principals Collegiate, Perth Zoo	
FEBRUARY	35	Four Seasons Garden Club, Midland	
FEBRUARY	60	Floreat Probus Club, Floreat	
MARCH	10	Rosebud Garden Club, Cottesloe	
MAY	45	Thornlie Probus Club, Gosnells	
MAY	60	Forrestfield Leisure Group, Forrestfield	
MAY	25	Kelmscott & Districts Garden Club, Kelmscott	
MAY	40	Victoria Park Probus Club, Perth Football Club, Lathlain	
JUNE	55	York Garden Club, York	

APPENDIX 4: THE JOURNEY SO FAR; CANE TOADS AND STTF

- **1935** 102 cane toads (a native of south/central Americas) brought into Australia by Meringa Sugar Experimental Station (Cairns)
- **1936** 3400 juvenile toads released into cane fields in a failed attempt to control cane beetles
- **1980 –** First reports of cane toads arriving in Arnhem Land (NT)
- **1984** Reports of cane toads beginning to impact on Kakadu National Park (NT)
- **1999** Reports of cane toads in Katherine area (NT)
- **February 2004** Cane toad Forum in Cairns produces climate projection maps that indicate likely future extent of infestation for WA (Kimberley and Kalbarri to Esperance).
- **March 2004** Ian Morris from Frogwatch NT sighted a large male toad 5km east of the Victoria River roadhouse.
- April 2004 Northern Habitat (an organisation from Broome and Foundation member-to-be) produces a discussion paper "Tourism Nightmare" and follows up with "Toad Strategies". Both are sent to government and industry and they receive a strong response from Kimberley Tourism Industry who request that a position statement be sent to State and Federal parliamentarians.
- **December 2004** Northern Habitat brings Graeme Sawyer (future Foundation Regional Coordinator) to Broome and Kununurra for public meetings and presents information on what could be achieved with cross community support. The message Keep Toads out of WA.
- **February 2005** Northern Habitat press releases point to failures by past political parties to address the cane toad issue adequately. The State Government begins to develop a policy specifically for the control of cane toads. Local candidates in the Kimberley make commitments to address the issue if elected.
- March 2005 The East Kimberley community with Kimberley Specialists and future Foundation board member Dr Andrew Storey (University of WA) hold the Kununurra Cane Toad Forum and sponsor attendance from 28 experts and presenters. Evidence suggests that a serious attempt at toad control is possible. Hon. Robin Chapple drafts a petition for the Legislative Council and over 300 signatures are collected in its first day. The Conservation Council of WA decides to support the fight and suggests a number of strategies including developing a stand alone Foundation to attract government and public contributions to support on-ground control activities.
- May 2005 Over 500 signatures to a petition are tabled in Parliament by Robin Chapple (Greens WA) for Legislative Council Environment Committee.

June 2005 - A public meeting is organised in Perth by the Conservation Council of WA. Presenters are: Russell Gueho (Northern Habitat), Graeme Sawyer (Northern Frogwatch), Alan Thompson (Save Endangered East Kimberley Species), Dr Judy Edwards (former WA Minister for the Environment) and Tim Winton (Author). WA govt. announces a further allocation of \$900,000 to the fight and calls on the Federal Government to match this commitment.

Northern Habitat invites author Di Morrissey and naturalist Ian Morris to present at a fundraising film night in Broome in late June and the attraction results in an article in the Bulletin magazine.

August 2005 – State Government announces \$1 million towards toad control. \$500,000 to a public awareness and education campaign and \$500,000 to be issued to Stop the Toad Foundation upon incorporation.

70th Anniversary of the original release of cane toads into Old - 19th August 1935

September 2005 – CALM releases draft WA cane toad control strategy.

First toad busting weekend organised by Kimberley Specialists and Frogwatch at Victoria River introduces volunteers to cane toads and outlines identification, safe handling and disposal. Northern Habitat represented by Russell Gueho. Conservation Council of WA represented by Lisa Brideson.

- **October 2005** Stop The Toad Foundation incorporates.
- **December 2005** A State Government contribution of \$500,000 to the Stop The Toad Foundation is received and cleared.
- **February 2006 –** First staff members hired for STTF, including Campaign Manager Dennis Beros based in Perth and Field coordinator Derek Monk based in Kununurra.
- **March 2006** Graeme Sawyer from Frogwatch NT and Derek Monk found 10 male toads at the Gregory Can in Gregory National Park.
- **September 2006 –** First Great Toad Muster held from 23rd September until 31st October. A total of 48,374 toads were removed by 126 volunteers.
- **February 2007** Board Member Russell Gueho takes over the position of Campaign Manager, in a voluntarily capacity.
- March 2007 Gregory National Park fencing trial began. The project was financially supported by DEC. Muyalee Women's Ranger group (a Timber Creek indigenous Community Development and Employment Program) assisted with the ongoing management of the fence line.
- **September 2007** Second Great Toad Muster held from 22nd September until 14th October. A total of 12,004 toads were removed with the help of 30 volunteers. Exclusion fencing was developed during the

Muster.

- **May 2008** Kim Hands is hired as the new Campaign Manager.
- **September 2008** Third Great Toad Muster held from 20th September until 18th October. A total of 68,325 toads were removed with the help of 70 volunteers. Exclusion fencing was trailed for the first time on a broad basis and found to be very efficient.
- **February 2009 –** Cane toads reach the WA border.
- **June 2009** STTF enter into a partnership with the Northern Land Council to continue the monitoring of the Gregory fence line and carry out toad control around the NT/WA border area.
- **September 2009** Fourth Great Toad Muster held from 12th September until 12th October. A total of 42,386 toads are removed with the help of 120 volunteers. Exclusion fencing is used in Keep River National Park.
- October 2009 The first National Eradication Week held from the 3rd October until the 11th October. A total of 4922 toads were removed by community groups from areas across QLD, northern NSW, NT and WA. Volunteers contributed 329 days of effort towards cane toad control.
- **March 2010 –** The second National Eradication Program begins and continues for six months. STTF offers financial support to community groups across Australia.
- **June 2010 –** STTF and Wyndham Corrective services use permanent fencing to protect domestic properties in Kununurra from toads.
- **August 2010** 75th Anniversary of the original release of cane toads into Qld 19th August 1935.
- September 2010 Fifth Great Toad Muster held from 11th September until 11th October. A total of 20,679 toads were removed with the help of 104 volunteers. The first permanent toad exclusion fence was erected in conjunction with DEC at Point Spring Nature Reserve. Permanent fencing was also erected at various popular tourism sites around Kununurra during the Muster. Tourism sites included the Lake Argyle Tourist Village, the Kununurra Country Club Resort and the Lakeside Resort.
- **November 2010** The Gregory fence trial finished and the fence is removed.
- May 2011 A 1.4km permanent fence is erected at Emma Gorge in the El Questro Wilderness Park. This project is the first ever attempt in Australia at creating a 'toad-free sanctuary' and protecting a site before toads arrive in the area. The project is a joint venture between STTF, Dr. Sean Doody, El Questro Wilderness Park and The Australian Geographic Society.
- **June 2011** First Biodiversity survey is carried out around the Emma Gorge fence line to determine what native wildlife is in the area pre-toad arrival.

September 2011 – The fence line at Emma Gorge is extended 300 metres up either side of the escarpment, making the fence 2km in total length.

March 2012 - Cane toads reach Emma Gorge, El Questro Wilderness Park.

April 2012- Second Biodiversity survey is carried out around the Emma Gorge fence line to determine if toads have affected native wildlife.



Anderson Munro & Wyllie

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16 October 2012

The Executive Stop The Toad Foundation (INC.) City West Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street West Perth WA 6005

Dear Sir/madam

MANAGEMENT LETTER YEAR 2012

We have now completed our audit of Stop The Toad Foundation (INC.) for the year ending 30 June 2012

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. While our procedures are designed to identify any material weaknesses and detect misstatements from fraud and error, there is an unavoidable risk that even some material misstatements may remain undiscovered. This unavoidable risk is due to the test nature and other inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of any accounting and internal control system.

We have noted the following matter which we believe needs to be brought to your attention.

Prepayments

During our audit we noted that the portion of the insurance premiums that relate to the 2012/13 financial year were not carried forwards into the next financial year as prepayments. The amounts were not material and no adjustment was made to the financial report.

We recommend that the timing of expenses be considered where the period of services being provided does not match the financial year. The expense should be recognised in the financial report in the same period that the goods or services are received.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank your staff for all their help with our audit.

Should you have any queries regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us at 9445 9955.

Yours faithfully

ANDERSON MUNRO & WYLLIE

BILLY-JOE THOMAS

Director

STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (INC)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 JUNE 2012

STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (Inc.)

STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE

I hereby certify that,

- The attached Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2012 is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies in Note 1 to the accounts.
- 2. All receipts due to the Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc) during the year ended 30 June 2012 have been deposited to the nominated National Australia Bank Account.
- 3. All payments made by the Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc) for the year ended 30 June 2012 have been made approved Association business.
- 4. Nothing has come to my attention that would indicate that the financial statements are inaccurate, inappropriate or otherwise misleading.
- 5. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Mr Russell Gueho Chairperson

Date: 11/10/2012

Stop The Tond Foundation Inc City West Lotteries House I Delhi Street West Porth, WA 6004 Western Australia

Balance Sheet

	June 2012		
	This Year	Last Year	
Assets			
Current Assets			
Main Acc #592933700	\$2,208.16	-\$2,381.99	
Maximiser Acc #592365993	\$22,607.17	\$11,079.52	
Fund #593279923	\$420.15	\$14,069.36	
Debit Card acc#797539221	\$812.84	\$5,723.47	
Petty Cash	\$0,59	-\$2,70	
Trade Debtors	\$16,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Total Current Assets	\$42,548.91	\$29,987.66	
Other Assets			
Prepayments	\$3,414.00	\$2,646.72	
Total Other Assets	\$3,414.00	\$2,646.72	
Plant & Equipment			
Plant & Equipment	\$131,554.77	\$131,554.77	
Plant & Equip Accum Dep	-\$82,553,36	-\$72,583.11	
Total Plant & Equipment	\$49,001.41	\$58,971.66	
Total Assets	\$94,964.32	\$91,606.04	
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade Creditors	\$2,884.70	\$1,763.90	
GST Liabilities		. ,	
GST on sales	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	
GST on purchases	-\$84.70	-\$1,274.64	
Total GST Liabilities	\$1,415.30	-\$1,274.64	
Payroll Liabilities			
Payroll Superanuation Payable	\$969.23	\$0,00	
PAYG Withholding Payable	\$0.17	\$4,813.11	
Accrued wages	\$1,615.38	\$2,422.00	
Leave Provision	\$289,26	\$2,774.48	
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$2,874.04	\$10,009.59	
Total Current Liabilities	\$7,174.04	\$10,498.85	
Total Liabilities	\$7,174.04	\$10,498.85	
Net Assets	\$87,790.28	\$81,107.19	
Equity			
Retained Earnings	\$81,107.19	\$233,169.01	
Current Year Earnings	\$6,683.09	-\$152,061.82	
Total Equity	\$87,790.28	\$81,107.19	
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Stop The Tond Foundation Inc

City West Lotteries House I Delhi Street West Perth, WA, 6004 Western Australia

Profit & Loss

July 2011 through June 2012

July 2	anti turongn opne	2012	10 m (10 m) 10 m (
	This Year	Last Year	
Income			
Donations	\$86,262.00	\$79,941.15	
Fundraising	\$29,045.00	\$3,371.00	
Miscellaneous funds	\$6,35	\$242,42	
Bank interest	\$1,412.05	\$3,611.76	
GVEHO	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	
Total Income	\$116,725.40	\$88,666,33	
Expenses			
Operations Costs			
Administration cost	\$9,516.88	\$12,833.00	
Bank fees	\$768.27	\$705.36	
Bad debit	\$0.00	\$465.00	
Depreciation Accum	\$9,970.25	\$12,296.67	
Business Insurance	\$2,131.57	\$2,298.05	
Catering	\$58.18	\$0.00	
Rent	\$2,700.00	\$2,311.37	
Vehicle licencing & Insurance	\$5,162.21	\$4,917.28	
Postage	\$0.00	\$265.71	
Office on costs	\$5,483.70	\$5,562.24	
Membership fees	\$60.00	\$60.00	
Legal & accounting fees	\$1,512.00	\$1,827.50	
Promotional Material	\$578.00	\$7,341.64	
Education	\$838.06	\$0.00	
Fundralsing	\$797.75	\$426.56	
Volunteer Support	\$0.00	\$607.18	
Emma Gorge			
Food & Camp Expenses (EG)	\$2,727.36	\$1,153.62	
Fencing Material (EG)	\$2,552.81	\$6,094.88	
Vehicle Fuel (EG)	\$1,290.06	\$2,044.15	
Vehicle Maintenance (EG)	\$1,452,80	\$420.28	
Flights and Accomodation (EG)	\$1,269.49	\$774.11	
Care for Country	40.00	40.040.00	
Telecommunications	\$0.00	\$2,310.86	
Vehicle Fuel	\$0.00	\$9,395.05	
Vehicle Maintenance	. \$0.00	\$2,834.69	
Vehicle Hire	\$0.00	\$33,389.01	
Camp Equipment	\$0.00	\$3,965.79	
Reports	\$0.00	\$1,756.00	
Fencing Material	\$0.00	\$1,120.03	
Flights and Accomodation	\$0.00	\$8,192.17	
Food & Camp Expenses	\$0.00	\$17,742.74	
Satellite Phone Hire	\$0,00	\$4,341.55	
Scientific Research	\$0.00	\$4,545.45	
Employment Expenses			
Superannuation	\$5,282.33	\$6,873.79	
Wages	\$57,885.68	\$78,797,06	
Wage Expense Other	\$0,00	\$253,12	
Leave Provision	(\$2,485.22)	\$2,153.63	
Workers' Compensation	\$489.59	\$651.82	
Rounding	\$0.54	\$0.79	
Total Expenses	\$110,042.31	\$240,728.15	
Net Profit / (Loss)	\$6,683.09	(\$152,061.82)	

STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (INC)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are 'Special Purpose Financial Reports' and not 'General Purpose Financial Reports'. Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc.) is of a type identified in Statement of Accounting Concepts 1 as a non-reporting entity, because in the opinion of the members of the Environmental Defender's Office WA (Inc.), there is unlikely to exist users who are unable to command the preparation of financial statements tailored so as to satisfy all of their information needs. Therefore there is no requirement to apply Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements, and none have been adopted.

The financial statements are prepared in order to satisfy the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 (WA) and the Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc.), and have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention and the accruals basis.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc.) in the preparation of the financial statements:-

(a) Property Plant & Equipment

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis so as to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life to the entity.

(b) Deferred Expenditure

All expenditure incurred on projects for the following financial year is deferred as a prepayment in the current year.

(c) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the income statement, when it is received.

Donations are recognised as revenue at the earlier of when received or when the donor can demonstrate they made the donation.

Interest revenue and distribution income from investments is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)

(d) Employee Benefits

Provisions for employee entitlements in relation to annual leave are brought to account, based upon employees pro-rata entitlement calculated at current rates of pay.

(e) Income Tax

Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc.) is exempt from income tax under section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended.

(f) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expense and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

NOTE 2: GOING CONCERN

The organisation is reliant upon raising further funds through donations or grant funds in order to continue as a Going Concern.





Anderson Munro & Wyllie

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Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc.), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2012. and the profit and loss statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory notes.

Management Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Management Committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Management Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Management Committee's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Management Committee's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Management Committee as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management Committee's financial reporting requirements under the constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Qualification

Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc) is a non profit organisation which depends on grants, donations and fund raising activities as its main sources of income. It is not practicable to establish controls over donations, fund raising activities and other cash receipts until their initial entry in the accounting records. Therefore our audit testing of donations, fund raising activities and other cash receipts was limited to the amounts recorded.

Auditor's Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, apart from the qualification above the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Stop the Toad Foundation as of 30 June 2012 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Emphasis of Matter

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the financial report, which described the uncertainty relating to the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Boards' financial reporting responsibilities. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

ANDERSON MUNRO & WYLLIE

Chartered Accountants

Dated: 16th October 2012

Osborne Park

BILLY-JOE THOMAS

Director