

**STOP THE TOAD**  
**KEEP WA CANE TOAD FREE**

## **Stop the Toad Foundation Annual Report 2008/09**



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

**A=N**  
foundation

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## BACKGROUND

The STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated in Western Australia in October 2005 with the primary purpose of preventing the invasion of cane toads into Western Australia. The strategic focus of the Foundation is to alert all Australians to the potential impacts of the cane toad and to try to engage everyone in the protection of Western Australia from the toad's imminent invasion.

The Committee of Management of the STTF was established at an inaugural AGM on 27 October 2005. It has held 9 meetings in the 2008/09 financial year.

This report covers the period from 1 July 2008 to the end of its fourth financial year, 30 June 2009.

The Foundation secured \$150,000 of Federal Government funding through their Caring for our Country grants scheme in late 2008. Some of this funding was used in the first half of 2009 to prepare for The Great Toad Muster 2009. The remainder will be used in the next financial year.



*An adult cane toad is blocked from water by a wildlife gate on STTF's exclusion fences.*

## 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 3*



*A volunteer collects toads on the Great Toad Muster 2008.*

## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Cane toads are a noxious pest. Since their misguided release into the sugar cane fields of Queensland seventy four 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 fourth 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 four years ago to have an impact on the westward movement of the toad. The success of the Great Toad Muster in the critical Auvergne region in September/October 2008 has confirmed our strategy and strengthened our resolve. The new exclusion fencing element implemented during the GTM 2008 has the potential to be the single most significant development to date in the manual control of cane toads.

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 Federal Government, and to our other major sponsor, the ABN Foundation. Special thanks also goes to Skywest airlines, Panoramic Resources, Fremantle Ports, CSPB, Kununurra TAFE and the Department of Corrective Services- Wyndham.

But most importantly to all those volunteers who did their bit to reduce the cane toad threat to WA this year, those who cooked, drove, answered phones, created spreadsheets, 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 fourth year.

**Robert Edel**



**Chairperson  
Stop The Toad Foundation (Inc)**



Robert Edel  
STTF  
Chairperson

## TOADS IN A NUTSHELL

Cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) were introduced to Queensland by the Bureau of Sugar Experimental Stations at Meringa in 1935 in a failed attempt to control a sugar cane pest. Since then cane toads have devastated the biological landscape of Queensland, northern New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

The cane toad is recognised by the IUCN (the World Conservation Union) and the Global Invasive Species Programme as one of the world's 100 worst invaders. The National Cane Toad Taskforce has recognized growing evidence and concern about the impact of cane toads on Australia's ecosystems. The cane toad has been listed as a key threatening process in Australia.

Cane toads are both aggressive predators and highly toxic when eaten by other animals (this includes the toad's eggs and tadpoles). They have an instant and deadly impact on anything that bites them. Cane toads feed on a broad variety of prey items including insects; small reptiles and frogs. They even eat ground-nesting bird chicks and eggs. They out-compete native species for food and shelter sites and (having no natural enemies) can deplete resources so severely that their impacts are major.

Cane toads are very adaptable and can infiltrate urban areas, grasslands, woodlands, sand dunes, coastal heath, mangroves and the margins of rainforest. They are prolific breeders with large females recorded as producing 30,000 eggs at a time. The eggs are capable of surviving in freshwater systems and brackish systems with salinity levels up to 15%.

Cane toads have spread from Queensland, south into New South Wales and east into the Northern Territory, devastating ecosystems throughout Arnhem Land and Kakadu. In the Northern Territory there is evidence of localised extinctions of northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), severe population declines of large predatory reptiles such as the varanid (monitor) lizards. Reports of deaths of freshwater crocodiles, water birds, freshwater fish and turtles are accumulating.

The first cane toad was found at the Northern Territory/Western Australia border in February 2009. This puts them potentially within just month's walk of the East Kimberley town of Kununurra and the world-class RAMSAR wetlands of Lake Argyle, Lake Kununurra and the Ord River. 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 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 SEASONAL STRATEGY

The Stop the Toad Foundation (STTF) cane toad strategy is centered around an annual Muster; a volunteer, community based event which aims to remove as many toads as possible from the western frontline through the combined effort of hand collection, trapping and fencing. The Muster is held at the end of the northern dry season, when water is scarce and cane toads are most vulnerable. This usually occurs in September/October and the Muster runs for approximately one month.

In the three years of its field operations, STTF has removed 130,000 cane toads during their annual Muster with the help of over 200 volunteers, contributing to slowing the westward movement of toads into WA. The Muster has also allowed STTF to trial different methods of cane toad control to determine which are more efficient in completely clearing areas of toads. The Foundation developed exclusion barrier fencing during the 2007 Muster.

The fencing strategy relies on the toads' need to get access to water to rehydrate every four days. Denied access to water, the toads must find other sources of moisture. Those that strike out towards other water points die rapidly in the barren land. The point at which they are forced to go searching is usually when they are most critically in need of water and most vulnerable to dehydration. The majority remain at the fence and are easily collected at night.

The Foundation's exclusion barrier fencing strategy was used on a broad scale for the first time during the 2008 Muster. This method was found to be an extremely efficient method of collecting and removing cane toads from the northern landscape. The fencing strategy contributed to the 70,000 cane toads collected during the 2008 Muster and was used on both man-made and natural water bodies with equal success. It was demonstrated during the 2008 Muster that it is the most efficient method in manual cane toad control available in Australia.

The fencing strategy has a significant potential to be used across northern Australia as a tool for cane toad control as the fences are cost effective, easy to erect, wildlife friendly and can guarantee to remove all toads in a specific area. They could be used to protect areas of high biodiversity and in World Heritage Listed sites, such as Purnululu National Park in Western Australia. The fences also have broader application to protect property within towns and to restrict the potential of 'hitch-hiker toads' to reach more sensitive environments from transport and trucking facilities.

*Volunteers erect an exclusion fence on Auvergne cattle station.*



## 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:

***Primary Goal: 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.***

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

- Continued support for Frogwatch toad expert Graeme Sawyer to develop strategies that complemented the outcomes sought by the Foundation and meet the aims of the Seasonal Strategy Plan.
- Liaised with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and Kimberley Toad Busters (KTB) and local landholders to collect intelligence on the extent and position of the current toad front line.
- Supported the Northern Land Council Ranger group to continue toad control work in the Timber Creek area for STTF.
- 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
- The Foundation held its third Great Toad Muster from 20 September to 18 October 2008.
- The Foundation used exclusion barrier fencing as a form of cane toad control during the 2008 Great Toad Muster. Results were very encouraging and fences have significant potential to be used across northern Australia to protect areas of high biodiversity and World Heritage Listed sites, such as Purnululu National Park.

## 2) LOGISTICS:

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

- Continued to employ a full time Strategic Campaign Manager throughout the 2008/9 financial year.
- Developed a strategy for recruiting volunteers for The Great Toad Muster 2008.
- Maintained two second-hand Toyota Troupe carriers to operational readiness.
- Purchased and prepared a range of other essential machinery and equipment to operational readiness, including EPIRBs, UHF radios, handheld GPS units, first aid equipment, etc.
- 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 Great Toad Muster 2008.
- Purchased materials to undertake exclusion barrier fencing during the 2008 Muster.
- Worked with Kununurra TAFE and Wyndham Correction services in the pre-fabrication of fences for the 2008 Muster.



*Volunteers on the 2008 Great Toad Muster*

## **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. 90 press, radio and TV interviews were produced and conducted in the 2008/09 financial year (see Appendix 2 for full details).
- Conducted many awareness raising exercises throughout the year, such as talks to schools and interested clubs.
- Maintained STTF website to promote awareness of the issue and act as a conduit for enquiries, donations, etc. The website contains:
  - All relevant information on the activities of, and publications by STTF
  - A comprehensive list of links to STTF media releases
  - A secure online donations facility
  - An automated letter page through which supporters could make relevant politicians aware of their opinions
  - An opt-in/opt-out eNewsletter list
  - Updates and e-newsletters relating to the 2008 Muster and ongoing activities of the Foundation
- Produced printed materials for use in awareness raising and to build support for the campaign, including:
  - KEEP WA CANE TOAD FREE bumper stickers (5,000 printed and distributed 2008/2009)
  - The Great Toad Muster 2008 posters (1,000 printed and distributed 2008/2009)
  - Production of STTF/Frogwatch Fencing DVD (hundreds distributed 2008/2009)
  - Numerous special purpose flyers and email updates
- Became a founding 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.
- In May, 2008 launched a Dry Season Strategy (and sought comment from stakeholders). The strategy formed the operational basis for the Great Toad Muster 2008.

- 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):**

***Primary Goal: 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 staff member, Kim Hands, as the Campaign Manager. As part of her duties, she carries out all administrative duties.
- The engagement of volunteers to assist with administrative tasks such as mail outs, organising volunteer evenings and plans for the Great Toad Muster 2008.
- 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:
  - Forging an agreement with the Conservation Council of WA to be:
    - providers of key administrative functions (eg. book keeping),
    - a centre of Perth-based operations, and
    - 'front-of-house' for the Foundation (phone number, reception, etc)
  - The Strategic Campaign Manager working from home whilst in Kununurra.

#### **Fundraising:**

- Fundraising is important to the ongoing success and achievement of the Foundation's aims. STTF successfully secured a further \$55,000 in 2008 from a philanthropic foundation to fund operations for the 2008 Great Toad Muster.
- An ongoing partnership with Barwick Estate wines has been maintained. 33% of proceeds from wine sales are donated to the Stop The Toad Foundation.
- 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.
- The STTF website has an online donation system, which receives weekly donations between \$20-\$1000.
- STTF sells Bumper car stickers for \$2 to raise funds the Foundations operations.

## **POSTSCRIPT: A BRIEF REPORT ON THE GREAT TOAD MUSTER 2008**

A report on The Great Toad Muster 2008 is available in entirety on STTF's website [www.stopthetoad.org.au](http://www.stopthetoad.org.au) however the following is a summary.

The 2008 Great Toad Muster was STTF's third annual muster on the Whirlwind plains of Auvergne Cattle Station. The Foundation has now collected three years of data and toad population statistics from this important feeder area in northern Australia. 70 volunteers attended the 2008 Muster, with an average of 21 volunteers per night.

A total of 68,418 cane toads were removed from Auvergne Station during a 4 week period from September 20th until October 18th 2008. Muster operations during 2008 also included work on Bullo River Station, to account for the fact that some toads have moved further west. In one week, 798 toads were removed from areas on Bullo River Station.

The small number of toads caught on Bullo River Station, when compared to Auvergne Station, indicates the position of the main volume of cane toads in northern Australia and confirms the importance of the Whirlwind Plains on Auvergne Station as an important area for cane toad control. The smaller numbers to the west indicate that the combined effort of groups working on eradicating cane toads is not stopping them but is dramatically reducing their numbers. This raises the question of what could be achieved with better coordination and more effective strategies such as fencing the permanent water holes.

The Foundation's exclusion barrier fencing strategy was used on a broad scale for the first time during the 2008 GTM. This method was found to be an extremely efficient method of collecting and removing cane toads from the northern landscape. The fencing strategy contributed to the high number of cane toads collected during this year's GTM and was used on both man-made and natural water bodies with equal success.

Manual collection alone will not stop the spread of cane toads unless the available resources can be both increased in magnitude and better coordinated to minimise duplication and maximise their effectiveness. The addition of the fencing procedure will be able to achieve better control because it allows for a more efficient collection effort in terms of less people required and a reduction in the time required to eradicate a local toad population. It also allows groups to implement control work on many more sites at the same time.

## **THE YEAR AHEAD**

We stand at the end of our fourth year of operations with encouraging results. The success of STTF's fencing method during the 2008 Great Toad Muster has confirmed our strategy and strengthened our resolve. We now look forward.

The Foundation will further develop its fencing strategy to test the possibility of exclusion barrier fences as a tool designed to completely clear areas of toads and protect high biodiversity hot spots. It will encourage other community groups and DEC to use the exclusion barrier fences in areas they are undertaking cane toad control work.

STTF will continue to hold The Great Toad Muster in 2009. We will rely on the reconnaissance activities of DEC and KTB. We plan for control activities further west to account for the toads moving towards WA.

We will also support appropriate research and development into biological or other controls and into the creation of areas of biodiversity protection.

No one pretends that this task will be easy. The country is remote, difficult to access and potentially dangerous to operate in. The Stop the Toad Foundation is dedicated to the defence of Western Australia and is committed to fighting the toad in a strategic manner, bringing teams of volunteers and professionals together in complementary action.

## **COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP:**

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

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

(At the time of the Foundation's AGM 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008).

The Foundation's Patron is WA writer Tim Winton.

It should be noted that many of the documents cited here are available online at [www.stopthetoad.org.au](http://www.stopthetoad.org.au), in the 'Publications' section, including:

- Dry Season Strategy 2008
- Fencing Strategy discussion papers
- Report on 2008 Great Toad Muster
- Report on 2007 Great Toad Muster

## 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**

**Primary Goal: 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.**

**Secondary Goal: 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**

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

- 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**

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

- **intelligence gathering to satisfy our knowledge needs, and**
- **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**

**Primary Goal: 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 2008/2009

DATE	MEDIA TYPE	SUBJECT
9-Jul-08	Internet - Explor Oz website	Blog for Great Toad Muster
27-Jul-08	Perth now exclusive	STTF mentioned in article re: rain and toads
29-Jul-08	Media release	National Eradication Week
30-Jul-08	Radio National	Interview re: Cane Toads in Bungle Bungles
5-Aug-08	CCWA e-bulletin	Volunteer opportunity for Muster
5-Aug-08	Stirling Times	Push for more vollies for Muster 2008
13-Aug-08	Media release	Volunteer information night 21st August
14-Aug-08	Broome Advertiser	Great Toad Muster volunteer opportunity
15-Aug-08	6PR Radio - Howard Satler	Vollie Information night 21st August
17-Sep-08	Media release	Winton prepares to Load Toads
17-Sep-08	Radio-ABC Broome	Kim interviewed about Muster plans
17-Sep-08	Interview in person	Kim interviewed by West Australian in KNX
20-Sep-08	Newspaper	Article in West Australian with photo
22-Sep-08	Radio Interviews Tim Winton:	
	ABC Darwin mornings	
	Territory FM	
	2GB Sydney Phillip Clark	
	720 Mornings Geoff H	
	720 drive Russell Wolf	
	Radio Interviews Russell Gueho :	
	6PR Howard Sattler	
	Murdoch University	
	UTS Sydney University	
25-Sep-08	Media release	The 1st 5 days of the Muster-20,000 toads!
25-Sep-08	Newspaper - The West	Small article -Muster update
26-Sep-08	Newspaper - The Age VIC	FRONT PAGE article with TW & GS
26-Sep-08	Newspaper - Canberra Times	Article by Lindsay Murdoch re: TW & Muster
26-Sep-08	Newspaper - Brisbane Times	Article by Lindsay Murdoch re: TW & Muster

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MEDIA TYPE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
26-Sep-08	Sydney Morning Herald	Article by Lindsay Murdoch re: TW & Muster
26-Sep-08	Magazine	Stock & Land Magazine - Muster update
4-Oct-08	Radio - ABC Katherine	Kim did pre-record re: Muster progress
6-Oct-08	Media release	A Great start to the Muster -50,000 toads!
6-Oct-08	Radio - Nova 97.3FM	Kim interviewed re: Muster progress
October issue	Skywest In flight Magazine	Skywest helps STTF volleys get to KNX
9-Oct-08	TV - Channel 7 Sunrise	Interview with GS about muster progress
15-Oct-08	TV - Al Jazeera	Al Jazeera film crew spent 2 days at Muster
21-Oct-08	Media release	Muster ends with record numbers
21-Oct-08	Radio Interview -6PR	Kim interviewed re: Muster results
22-Oct-08	Radio - Murdoch University	Kim Interviewed re: Muster results
23-Oct-08	TV - WIN	Russ interviewed on WIN about Muster
30-Oct-08	Newspaper-Broome Adv.	Community groups working on toad control
3-Nov-08	Radio - NZ fm	Kim interviewed re: Muster results
12-Nov-08	Radio National	Russell re: cane toad found in Karratha
13-Nov-08	ABC Drive	RG Interview re Garrett funding
15-Nov-08	ABC Television	Kim interviewed live for cane toad story
20-Nov-08	Media release	Garrett's media release mentions STTF
21-Nov-08	Media release	STTF thanking Federal Government
24-Nov-08	Radio interview	KH interviewed by ABC Karratha
4-Dec-08	Phone interview	Kimberley Echo re : Federal funding
Dec issue 201	Newspaper article	Have a go news re: 4th Muster in 2009
Summer edition	Article in Greener Times	Muster results
2009	Tourism brochure	Add in Australia's NW Tourism Planner
2009	Wicked Van	Wicked Toad van designed to support cause!
11-Jan-09	Newspaper - Sunday times	State Gov quoted STTF' s contribution

DATE	MEDIA TYPE	SUBJECT
13-Jan-09	Radio interview RTR FM	Success of 2008 Muster/promoting Muster 09
6-Feb-09	Media release	STTF warning:Toads could invade SW wetlands
9-Feb-09	Newspaper- Freo Herald	Interviewed KH & AS re: Herdsman Lake demo
11-Feb-09	Radio	Bunbury ABC pre-record KH on Lake demo
12-Feb-09	Newspaper	Article in The Post about Herdsman Lake demo
13-Feb-09	Internet	The west.com interviewed Kim re: toads near WA border
Autumn	Magazine -Nestle	Carline Humfrey (Muster volunteer 2008) story
2-Mar-09	TV	Russell interviewed on GWN re: Toad at border
2-Mar-09	Radio	Russell interviewed on ABC re: Toad at border
3-Mar-09	Radio	KH on ABC Radio National re: Toad at border
3-Mar-09	Media release	STTF: The War is far from lost
4-Mar-09	Radio	Kim interviewed by Derby Radio re: Toads in WA
7-Mar-09	Newspaper	Article in The Post re: STTF not giving up yet
19-Mar-09	Caravan and Camping show	Volunteers WA handed out STTF stickers
23-Mar-09	Radio	Kim interviewed by Curtin FM re: native frogs
April	Sydney Caravan & Camping	Narelle Brooks (KVC) handed out STTF stickers
April	Newspaper	The Western Independent interviewed Kim
17-Apr-09	Website	Volunteering WA website posted items for STTF
30-Apr-09	Newspaper	Curtain University student interviewed KH re: Muster 09
11-May-09	Magazine	Freelance journalist interviewed KH for magazine
11-May-09	Documentary	Freelance journalist documentary on Muster
June-Sep 2009	Web based	Wicked Van Competition- info Wicked/STTF site
June	Media release	Wicked Van Competition
Winter 2009	Magazine	Greener Times article re: volunteers/ Muster 09

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MEDIA TYPE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
Winter 2009	Magazine	Landscape Magazine- DEC/KTB/STTF
1-Jun-09	Newspaper	Article about Edna Cable in Have a go news
16-Jun-09	Radio	Kim interviewed RTR Understorey re: Muster 09
18-Jun-09	Media release	Promoting eco-experience of The Muster
22-Jun-09	Radio	Kim interviewed on ABC Midwest re: Muster 2009
June	Newspaper	Margaret River Times story re: the Wicked Van
23-Jun-09	Radio	Kim interviewed re: Muster on ABC Mid-west
25-Jun-09	Newspaper	The Post newspapers interviewed past vollies
25-Jun-09	Newspaper	Farm weekly article about Muster 2009
25-Jun-09	Newspaper	Rockingham local paper about Muster 2009
25-Jun-09	Radio	Mitch(vollie 2008) interviewed Western Angler
27-Jun-09	Newspaper	Hills Gazette- interviewed Edna Cable re: Musters

### **APPENDIX 3: PRE – FOUNDATION HISTORY**

**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).

**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 begin 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 Qld  
– 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.

**STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (INC)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**30 JUNE 2009**

**STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (INC)**

**STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE**

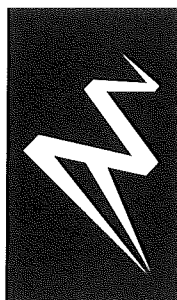
I hereby certify that:

1. The attached Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2009 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 2009 have been deposited to the nominated Bank West account.
3. All payments made by the Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc) for the year ended 30 June 2009 have been made for 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 Robert Edel  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

27/10/09



# Anderson Munro & Wyllie

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Unit 8 / 7 Hector Street, Osborne Park WA 6017

PO Box 1357, Osborne Park WA 6916

Phone: (08) 9445 9955 Fax: (08) 9445 9966

ABN 59 125 425 274

Website: [www.amwaudit.com.au](http://www.amwaudit.com.au)

*Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation*

## STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (INC)

### INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

#### Scope

We have audited the attached special purpose financial report of Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc) for the year ended 30 June 2009. The Executive is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Council and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc). No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting requirements. 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 that for which it was prepared.

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. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements).

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### 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.

#### Qualified Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements the financial position of Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc) as at 30 June 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Anderson Munro & Wyllie

**ANDERSON MUNRO & WYLLIE**

Chartered Accountants

**Billy-Joe Thomas**

Director

Osborne Park, Western Australia

Dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009

# Stop The Toad Foundation Inc

City West Lotteries House  
2 Delhi Street  
West Perth. WA 6005  
Western Australia

## Balance Sheet

As of June 2009

22/10/2009

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### Assets

#### Current Assets

Main Acc #592933700	\$9,852.86
Maximiser Acc #592365993	\$45,623.70
Fund #593279923	\$14.71
Debit Card acc#797539221	\$2,886.47
Trade Debtors	\$221.09
Total Current Assets	\$58,598.83

#### Other Assets

Prepayments	\$2,823.36
Total Other Assets	\$2,823.36

#### Plant & Equipment

Plant & Equipment	\$113,424.66
Plant & Equip Accum Dep	-\$45,297.75
Total Plant & Equipment	\$68,126.91

Total Assets \$129,549.10

### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

Trade Creditors \$42,611.29

#### GST Liabilities

GST on sales \$4.06

GST on purchases -\$3,612.30

Total GST Liabilities -\$3,608.24

#### Payroll Liabilities

PAYG Withholding Payable \$0.82

Leave Provision \$4,659.52

Total Payroll Liabilities \$4,660.34

Total Current Liabilities \$43,663.39

Total Liabilities \$43,663.39

Net Assets \$85,885.71

### Equity

Retained Earnings \$181,167.01

Current Year Earnings -\$95,281.30

Total Equity \$85,885.71

# Stop The Toad Foundation Inc

City West Lotteries House

2 Delhi Street

West Perth. WA 6005

Western Australia

## Profit & Loss Statement

July 2008 through June 2009

22/10/2009

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### Income

Depart Environment & Heritage	\$121,718.18
Fencing program	\$2,000.00
Donations	\$65,825.65
Miscellaneous funds	\$1,350.00
Bank interest	\$3,646.37
Grants	
Total Income	<u>\$194,540.20</u>

### Expenses

Operations	
Administration cost	\$11,915.71
Bank fees	\$814.96
Depreciation Accum	\$11,546.86
Loss on disposal of asset	\$3,400.00
Catering	\$368.65
Promotional Material	\$6,984.07
Rent	\$2,700.00
Travel	\$1,835.56
Website	\$2,221.60
Freight	\$150.14
Postage	\$910.88
Office Supplies	\$817.75
Membership fees	\$60.00
Legal & accounting fees	\$1,086.35
Business Insurance	\$2,646.11
Photocopying	\$724.98
Fundraising	\$908.57
Telephone/internet	\$3,072.20
Strategic planning	\$171.26
Volunteer Support	\$2,320.28
On-ground Operations	
Vehicle licencing & Insurance	\$29,914.52
Vehicle Fuel & Servicing	\$21,028.83
Equipment	\$5,076.07
Reports	\$923.00
Fencing	\$23,497.86
Travel and Accom	\$23,490.88
Food & Camp Expenses	\$13,279.54
Communications	\$9,515.95
Employment Expenses	
Professional development	\$165.45
Employee accomodation	\$99.33
Superannuation	\$6,382.00
Wages	\$70,910.81
Leave Provision	\$4,082.62
Workers' Compensation	\$416.91
Contract Work	\$26,381.80
Total Expenses	<u>\$289,821.50</u>
Net Profit / (Loss)	<u>-\$95,281.30</u>

## **STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (INC)**

### **NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**

#### **NOTE 1:**

##### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

These financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the accounts preparation requirements of the foundation. The executive has determined that the council is not a reporting entity.

No applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied in the preparation of this report.

The statements are also prepared on an accrual basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these statements:

##### **DEPRECIATION OF FIXED ASSETS**

Depreciation has been charged on fixed assets at rates assessed to write-off the cost of each of the assets over their economic life.

# REGISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

## Statistical Return of Tax Deductible Donations

**FINANCIAL YEAR ended 30 JUNE 2009**

**Full Name of Organisation:** Stop The Toad Foundation  
**Australian Business Number:** 76 065 342 634  
**Name of Public Fund:** Stop The Toad Fund  
**Postal Address:** 2 Delhi Street, West Perth, 6005  
**Telephone No:** 08 94207266  
**Internet Address:** [www.stopthetoad.org.au](http://www.stopthetoad.org.au)  
**Email Address:** [kim@stopthetoad.org.au](mailto:kim@stopthetoad.org.au)

**Contact Details** (Please include title ie Dr, Mr, Mrs etc)

**Name:** Ms Kim Hands  
**Position** (eg President, Secretary): Statagic Campaign Manager  
**Mobile No:** 0400130397  
**Email Address:** [kim@stopthetoad.org.au](mailto:kim@stopthetoad.org.au)

### Membership

How many members did the organisation have at 30 June 2009? 5

### Public Fund Account Details

Account Name	Stop The Toad Fund
Bank/Credit Union Name	National
Branch Name	West Perth
BSB No.	086 492
Account No	59 327 9923

### Public Fund Management Committee

Please list below the members of your public fund management committee. If you have made changes to the committee and have not informed the Department, then you will need to detail the changes below and enclose a nomination form for any new members.

### Current Membership

No.	Full Name of Committee Member
1.	Robert Edel
2.	Ken Bradley
3.	Rosh Ireland
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

**New Members** (that have not been communicated to the Department – need to fill in a nomination form for each member and enclose with the statistical return)

No.	Full Name of New Committee Member
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

**Former Members** (whose departure has not been notified to the Department)

No.	Full Name of Former Committee Member
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

### Public Fund Donations

Please list donations to your Public Fund for the financial year ending 30 June 2009.

Type of Donations	Number of Donations*	Donation Amount
Money	46	56,262.00
Property		\$
Deductible contributions		\$
TOTAL	46	\$ 56,262.00

\*NOTE: Deductible contributions are contributions received by a deductible gift recipient for fundraising events that it organises within Australia. Eligible fund raising events include:

- fetes, balls, gala shows, dinners, performances or similar events;
- events comprising sales of goods if selling such goods is not a normal part of the supplier's business; and
- events that have been approved by the Commissioner of Taxation as a fundraising event.

There are two types of eligible contributions:

- a right to participate in a fundraising event (for example, the purchase of a ticket to attend a charity ball), and
- a successful bid at a charity auction conducted by a DGR.

To be tax deductible:

- the contribution must be money over \$250; property purchased during the 12 months before making the contribution and valued at more than \$250, or property valued by the Commissioner at more than \$5,000; and
- the benefit received by the contributor must be no more than 10% of the value of the contribution or \$100, whichever is less.

For further information on deductible contributions, refer to the Australian Taxation Office's website at [www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit/content.asp?doc=/content/56543.htm&page=2&H2](http://www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit/content.asp?doc=/content/56543.htm&page=2&H2).

### **Property Donations**

Please provide a brief description of property donated to the public fund for the financial year ending 30 June 2009.

Description of Property	\$ Value
<b>TOTAL</b>	

### **Expenditure of Public Fund Revenue**

Expenditure of public fund monies for the financial year ending 30 June 2009.

Description of Expenditure on the Natural Environment	\$ Value
Administration costs (eg stationary, electricity, telephone, rent etc)	\$
Coasts and oceans	\$
Conservation covenants	\$
Environmental advocacy (this should include all monies spent on advocacy)	\$
Environmental education	\$
Environmental Defender's Office costs	\$
Fundraising and campaign support	\$
Greenhouse/air quality	\$
Inland waters (excludes salinity)	\$
Land conservation (excludes national/state parks, reserves, includes salinity)	\$
National parks, state/territory parks, local reserves	\$
Native animal welfare (ie care and rehabilitation of injured native animals)	\$
Pollutants, toxics, nuclear waste	\$
Renewable energy	\$
Species conservation (excludes native animal welfare)	\$56,262.00
Sustainable development	\$
Waste management	\$
Other (please identify)	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,262.00</b>

### **Audited Annual Financial Statement**

An audited annual financial statement must be provided with the statistical return for the organisation and its public fund.

The Department does allow the organisation's annual financial statement to be for other annual periods than the standard financial year eg 1 January to 31 December.

### **Constitutional Documents**

The Department has an interest in any amendments to your organisation's constitution as any change may affect the public fund. If the constitution has been amended and you have not provided a copy to the Department, then you will need to submit it with the statistical return.

### **Environmental Outcomes**

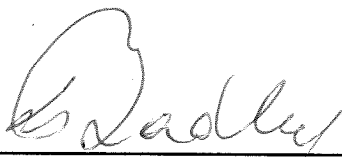
Please provide (as an attachment) a brief description of the outcomes achieved in the financial year ending 30 June 2009 using public fund gifts (donations).

### **Declaration**

Declaration (to be signed by the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer or Trustee of the organisation)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the information entered above is correct.

Signed



Name Mr Kenneth Bradley

Position Treasurer

Date

30/10/09

Please post or email to:

The Administrator  
Register of Environmental Organisations  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6274 1467

Email: [reo@deh.gov.au](mailto:reo@deh.gov.au)

Web: [www.environment.gov.au/about/tax/reo](http://www.environment.gov.au/about/tax/reo)

(If you choose to email the statistical return, please ensure that all documents have been signed off).

# STOP THE TOAD

## KEEP WA CANE TOAD FREE

Stop the Toad Foundation (Inc)

### **Annual report: July 2008- June 2009**

The STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (STTF) is a non-government, non-profit organisation incorporated in Western Australia in October 2005 with the primary purpose of preventing the invasion of cane toads into Western Australia. The strategic focus of the Foundation is to alert all Australians to the potential impacts of the cane toad and to try to engage everyone in the protection of Western Australia from the toad's imminent invasion.

The STTF cane toad strategy is centered around an annual Muster; a volunteer, community based event which aims to remove as many toads as possible from the frontline through the combined effort of hand collection, trapping and fencing. The Muster is held at the end of the northern dry season, when water is scarce and cane toads are most vulnerable. This usually occurs in late September/early October and the Muster runs for approximately for one month. STTF relies on volunteers and the generosity of corporate and private individuals to ensure that the Musters are held safely and successfully.

During the financial year July 2008 – June 2009, STTF held its 3rd Great Toad Muster from 20 September to 18 October 2008, operating on the NT side of the WA – NT border. Almost 70,000 cane toads were removed from the westward moving populations with the help of 70 volunteers from all over Australia and overseas. The 2008-09 financial year also included expenditure for the planning of the 4<sup>th</sup> Great Toad Muster, due to be held later in 2009 from 12<sup>th</sup> September until 12<sup>th</sup> October.

The total amount donated to STTF during the financial year July 2008 – June 2009, was \$56,262.00. All funds were spent on Species conservation through the Great Toad Muster operations.

Yours sincerely,



Kim Hands  
Campaign Manager  
Stop the Toad