



## **World Environment Day Awards recognize the unique environmental value of the Kimberley and importance of Kimberley Toad Busters**

*“Our diverse group of volunteers working tirelessly to raise awareness, support scientific research and minimize the impact of cane toads in the Kimberley have been awarded the Community Award at the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards at a gala dinner in Melbourne.”* Lee Scott-Virtue, Volunteer toad buster, Co-Founder and President, Kimberley Toad Busters.

*“The award and recognition could not come at a better time for the Kimberley. With the recent late rains a colonizing front has travelled approximately 20 km in less than four weeks and has arrived in the Ord Irrigation area. Up to 100 cane toads a night are being removed from the irrigation channels. Breeding is also occurring.”* Ben Scott-Virtue, Field Coordinator, Kimberley Toad Busters.



**Photo: United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Community Award**

Kimberley Toad Busters reconnaissance work along 700 km of the cane toad front line has found areas without community cane toad control the toads are travelling 80 km each year, at this rate they are likely to cross the Kimberley and reach Broome within 12 years. In areas where the community has been busting almost every night cane toads only travelled 15 km this wet season, an absolutely amazing achievement, this is the lowest rate of movement since the cane toads were first released in Queensland! Added Scott-Virtue.

*“The Kimberley is an area of National environmental significance, a tragedy is unfolding here. In some locations in WA toad busters are finding up to three dead goannas a night.”* Ruth Duncan, Science and Education Coordinator, Kimberley Toad Busters.



**Photo: Another dead goanna in the Kimberley found by Kimberley Toad Busters, cause of death ingestion of a cane toad. Up to three dead goannas a night are being found by volunteers. Volunteers are out busting almost every night of the week.**

*“Our ‘What’s in Your Backyard?’ project has already recorded deaths of goannas in a number of our monitoring sites including Dingo Springs, Thompson Springs and Mulligans Lagoon. There is some promising news, goannas are still present along Lake Argyle 15 months after cane toads have arrived. Toad populations along Lake Argyle were almost completely removed by the end of last dry season (November 2009) and have built up with new arrivals again over the wet. It is time to start removing toads from these areas again to give our wildlife the best chance of survival.”* Ruth Duncan, Science and Education Coordinator, Kimberley Toad Busters.

*“More good news is the Lungworm Parasite is still present in toads along Lake Argyle and is building in density, there is a real chance with Toadbusters and the Lungworm Parasite toad populations can be kept lower in the Kimberley.”* Ruth Duncan, Science and Education Coordinator, Kimberley Toad Busters.

## **What is happening in Kununurra right NOW:**

*“Kimberley Toad Busters is launching the ‘Adopt a Street’ campaign. It is time for Kimberley residents to organize their own regular toad busts in their backyard or streets to control cane toads in their local environment. Talk regularly with your neighbours and encourage zero tolerance for cane toads. Together, we can make a difference.”* John Cugley, Administration Coordinator, Kimberley Toad Busters.

*“Kimberley Toad Busters have begun working closely with growers of the Ord Irrigation Area to remove adult cane toads and remove cane toad breeding occurring in the irrigation channel system. Already cane toad tadpoles are being flushed from the area into the Lower Ord River System, a RAMSAR listed wetland. Cane toads are quickly approaching the remarkable Lower Ord.”* Ben Scott-Virtue, Field Coordinator, Kimberley Toad Busters.

*“Kimberley Toad Busters urge residents to use caution and common sense when considering using cane toad fences around their backyards or rural blocks. Cane toad fences have the potential to obstruct the movement of wildlife. Regular toad busting and removal of cane toad eggs and tadpoles are a more effective way of protecting our wildlife long-term. If fences are installed please regularly monitor and maintain fences, please remove fences if deaths to native animals occur.”* John Cugley, Administration Coordinator, Kimberley Toad Busters.

*“The Lungworm Parasite is yet to be found in cane toads in Kununurra. The northern corridor of the cane toad front line is moving at an incredible pace through Carlton Hill pastoral station and towards the Lower Ord. Kimberley Toad Busters are continuing to dissect and monitor the rate of Lungworm Parasite infection.”* Ben Scott-Virtue, Field Coordinator, Kimberley Toad Busters.

***“We desperately need help and support to introduce the Lungworm Parasite into the explorer toads and northern corridor of the cane toad front line.”*** Added Scott-Virtue.

See KTBs at [www.canetoads.com.au](http://www.canetoads.com.au)

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**High resolution images of the photographs are available.**

**(NB: See previous media releases at [www.canetoads.com.au](http://www.canetoads.com.au)) ...For more information contact:**

John Cugley, KTB Administration Coordinator. 08 91682576 / 0427 550331

Ben Scott-Virtue, KTB Field Coordinator 08 91682576

Ruth Duncan, KTB Science and Education Coordinator 0400767650

Lee Scott-Virtue, KTB Founder and President 08 91687080