

Media Release:

28.10.08

Bust a Toad at the Territory Wildlife Park

The Top End community is being asked to help 'bust a toad' at the Territory Wildlife Park (TWP) at 6.30pm this Thursday, 30 October 2008.

TWP Assistant Curator of Life Sciences Damien Stanioch said regular cane toad busts at the park have been a great success, with more than 1800 cane toads captured and disposed of since the first one was found in August 2006.

"On our first cane toad bust in February 2007 we caught 130 cane toads and on our most recent bust in July this year we caught a whopping 494 cane toads," Mr Stanioch said.

"Twilight Nights at the park have also proved to be a great opportunity to capture cane toads, with more than 350 toads captured on Twilight Nights held in May and September this year.

"It is important we continue the fight against cane toads and protect our native wildlife, both in and around the park.

"Cane toads compete with many of our native species for habitat and food, whilst other species try to eat the poisonous toads and die as a result.

"The TWP team has noticed a decline in the number of yellow spotted monitors and northern quolls roaming around the park since cane toads appeared.

"We can't eliminate them completely but we can give our native wildlife a fighting chance by reducing toad numbers."

Mr Stanioch said volunteers who wish to attend the toad bust should meet at the Territory Wildlife Park front gate at 6.30pm.

"Staff will provide people with directions on where the designated clean-up areas are within the park," Mr Stanioch said.

"Gloves and bags will be provided for collection and disposal and the captured toads will be disposed of humanely.

"Refreshments will be available for purchase at the TWP Café."

For more information on the toad bust contact the Territory Wildlife Park on 8988 7200.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Damien Stanioch on 8988 7237

Image – cane toad (*Chaunus marinus*)

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