

Stop the Spread



Year 3 to 6 Class
Boomi Public School



Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for Primary Schools that was developed by Peekdesigns.

www.envirostories.com.au



This program provides an education experience for kids through learning about the environment. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2010, the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, in conjunction with the Central West Catchment Management Authority, provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative competition.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry. The Cotton CRC aims to provide innovative knowledge to stimulate economic, social and environmental outcomes at farm, regional and national levels.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Central West Catchment Management Authority

The Central West Catchment is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales, flanked by the Barwon and Darling Catchments to the north and west, Lachlan to the south and the Sydney/Shoalhaven Basin to the east.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

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The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC 2010 “Fur & Fins, Feet & Beaks...What can you find at your local creek?” Enviro-Stories Competition consists of the following books:

- A Duck’s Life
- Blue-Bell the Cow
- Collie the Champion Carp
- Giggle Learns to Fly
- Pippy the Platypus
- Stop the Spread
- The Fantastic Five Friends
- Trouble on Wee Waa Lagoon
- Pob’s Great Search

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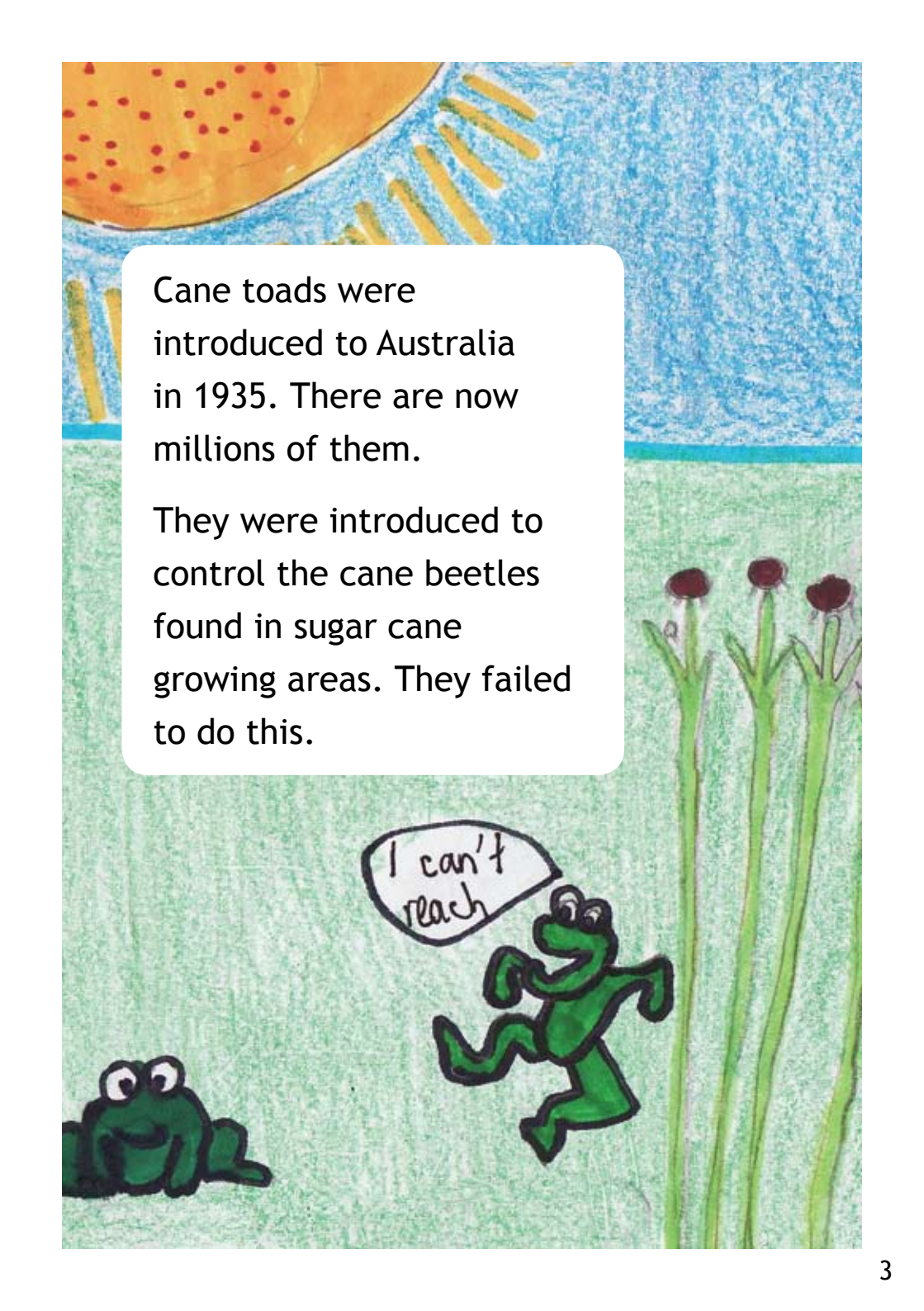
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In North-West NSW there is a community called Boomi. Boomi has a unique environment with an abundance of wildlife, waterways and habitats. This attracts tourists and creates a beautiful place to live.

The kids of Boomi don't want cane toads invading their community.



Cane toads were introduced to Australia in 1935. There are now millions of them.

They were introduced to control the cane beetles found in sugar cane growing areas. They failed to do this.



Cane toads have warty, dry skin, webbed toes, visible ear drums, bony ridges over their eyes and big poisonous glands.

Their colour varies between grey, yellowish and olive brown.



Adult cane toads grow to about 15 cm long.

They sit upright and move in short hops.

Cane toads are most common around urban areas, grasslands, woodlands and standing water.

Being nocturnal animals, they love to hide out in pot plants, garages, mulch and under rocks and logs during the day.

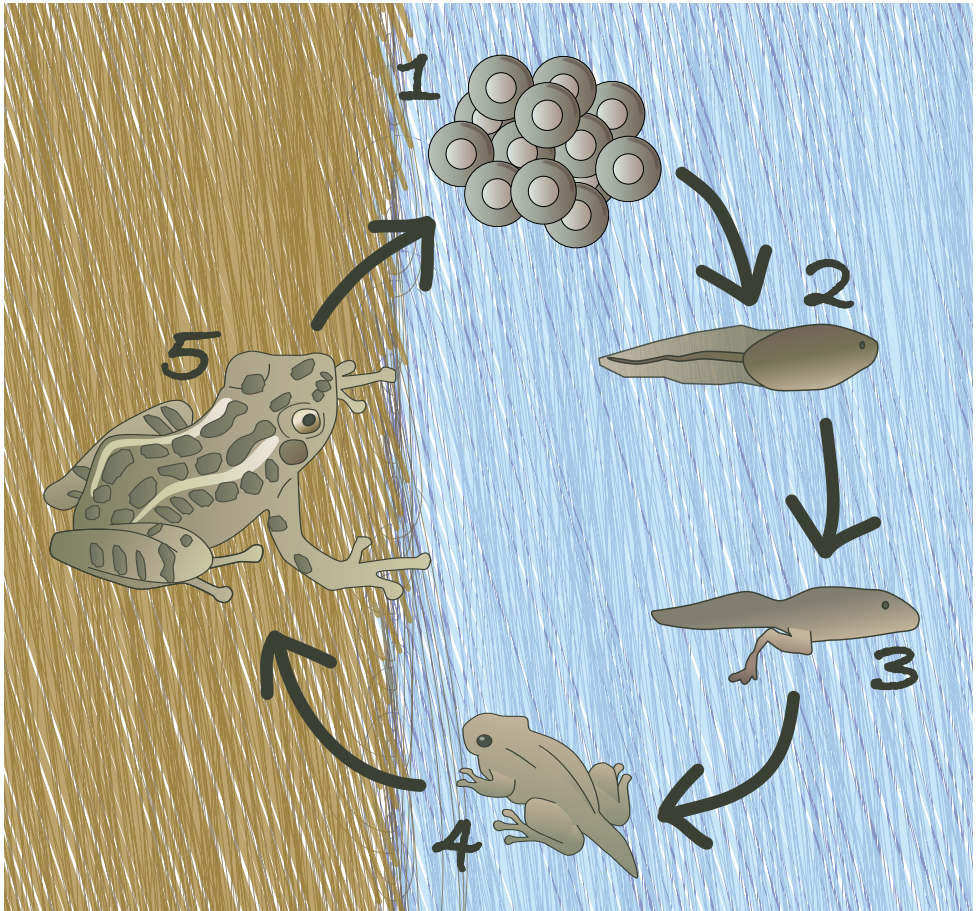
We should avoid leaving lights on at night as it attracts insects for cane toads.



Cane toads need still water to breed. They breed between September and March and each female can lay between 8,000 and 35,000 eggs twice a year.

A cane toad can live up to five years. That means each female can lay up to 350,000 eggs in its lifetime.





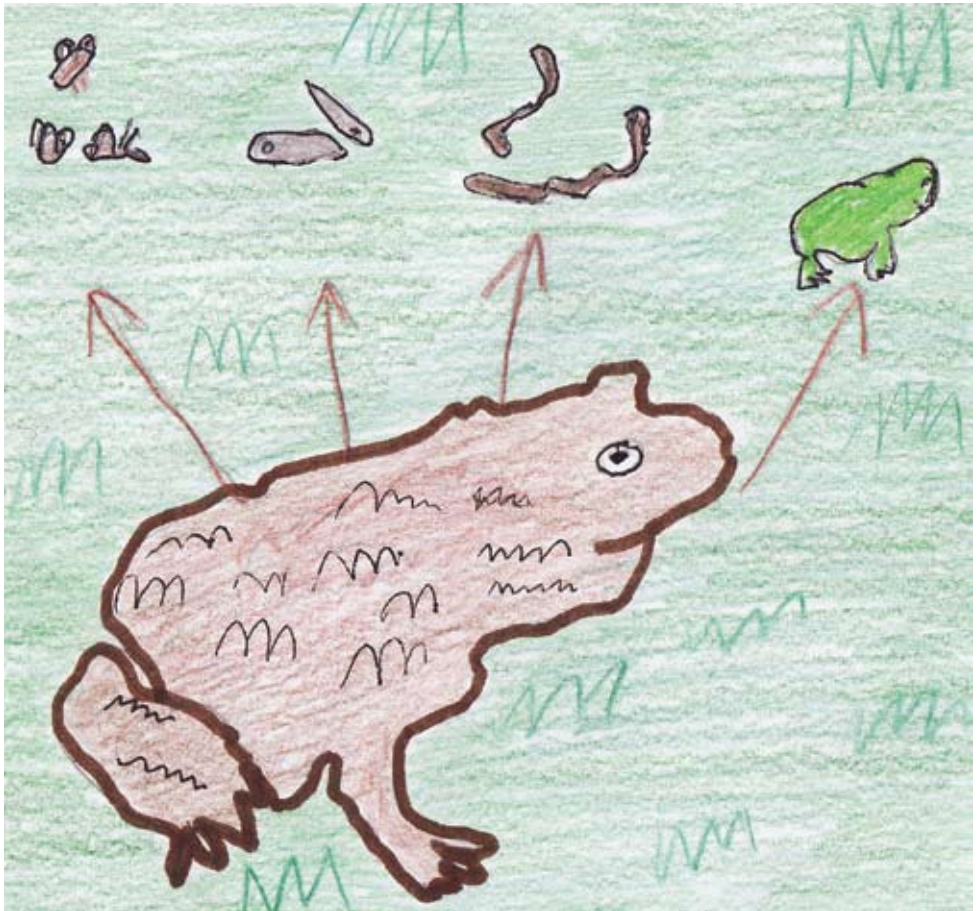
1. Adult Cane Toads lay their eggs in water

2. Tadpoles form and swim around

3. Tadpoles grow hind-legs

4. Toadlets - toads have all their legs and a tail

5. Adult Cane Toad emerge from the water and walk around on land



Cane toads eat plants and animals like frog tadpoles, insects, small native frogs, snakes and sometimes mammals.

In urban areas they like to eat left over pet food and other rubbish, so it is important to clean up all garbage.



Almost every animal that tries to eat a cane toad will die of heart failure. This is because of the toxic poison it has all over its body.

Cane toad tadpoles can be eaten by other animals like turtles and birds but even they are toxic.

Some birds, like crows, have learnt to flip them over and avoid the poison gland.



Native animals find it difficult to tell the difference between a cane toad and a native frog. This is devastating for our local wildlife and could have long term effects. Cane toads can even kill our pets.

Even we can find it difficult to tell native frogs and cane toads apart. This is because they can look similar at different stages of their life.

The main difference between a frog and a toad is the size. Cane toads are much bigger than our native frogs.



Here are some frogs that can be commonly mistaken as cane toads in north-west NSW.



Striped Burrowing Frog
Litoria alboguttata



Peron's Tree Frog
Litoria peronii



Eastern Banjo Frog or
Eastern Popplebonk
Limnodynastes dumerilii



Common Froglets
Crinia sp.



Ornate Burrowing Frog
Opisthodon ornatus



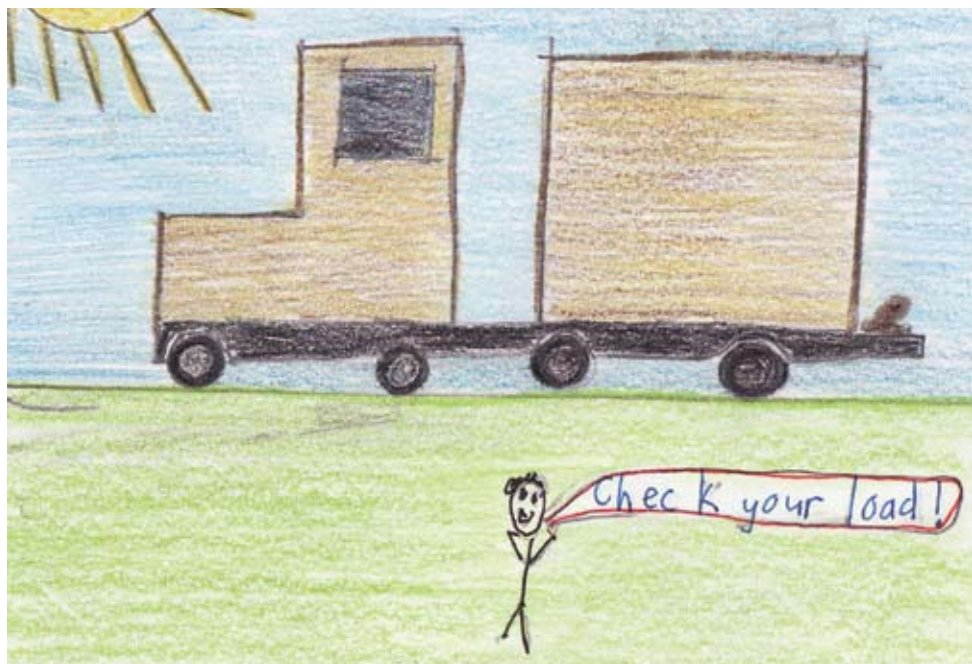
Spotted Marsh Frog
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis

We can all play our part in trying to control the spread of cane toads.

Try and prevent breeding areas around the house by forming 50 cm high barriers around pot plants and ponds.

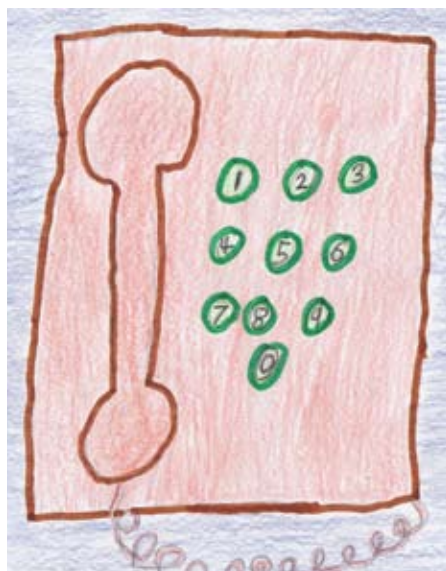
Wear protective gloves and eye wear when handling cane toads and kill them humanely by placing them in the freezer. They can then be disposed of in the trash.





Help stop the spread of cane toads into non-infested areas by checking your vehicle for cane toads before you leave.

If you see a cane toad where it shouldn't be, like North-West NSW, then you need to contact your nearest Council or National Parks and Wildlife Office.



Boomi Public School recently invited the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority to come and talk about cane toads.



The students learnt a lot and were inspired to write this book to share what they had learnt.





“Together we can get rid of cane toads.”



Thank you for reading our book. We hope you enjoyed it and learnt about the problems that cane toads can cause. So together let's stop the spread of cane toads.

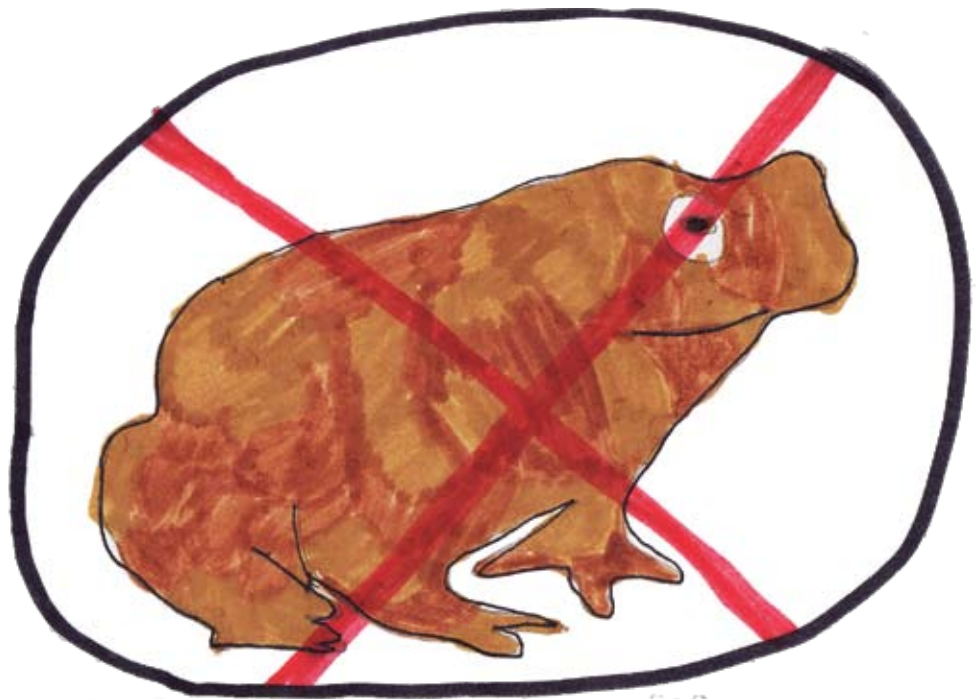
We found our information about cane toads at the following websites:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

www.invasiveanimals.com

www.australianmuseum.net.au/Cane-Toad

www.canetoadsinoz.com





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