We see and hear plenty of mature toads around at night or under a rock or plot plant during the day, however we see thousands of little hatchlings on lake path anytime, especially in the mornings and after rain. With so many toads comes the threat to the beautiful environment and its residents (the native frogs, animals and birds), the reason we all live here.

There is a solution…… <u>"and its not your 8 iron"</u>

The Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association has recently had an information session on toads from Dr Rob Capron from the University of Queensland. He and his team were given research funds by governments to try and address the toad issue and they have come up with a simple solution. Attract and trap toad tadpoles and then dispense then humanely, thereby reducing the number of toads overall.

The info in detail--------

How does tadpole trapping work? This bait uses natural cane toad attractant chemistry made from glands of mature toads) in conjunction with traps, to achieve the capture and removal of cane toad tadpoles from managed waterways (e.g. dams, ponds, streams, creeks). Tadpole trapping is an environmentally sustainable, readily transferable to the public. Coordinated implementation of tadpole trapping has the potential to reduce cane toad tadpole (and adult?) populations, and alleviate the environmental impact of this toxic invasive pest

What is the ecology behind tadpole trapping? Field observations revealed that tadpoles actively search out and consume the eggs of other female cane toads within the same body of water. As this behavior is successful even in low to zero visibility, it was speculated that cane toad eggs release a chemical attractant that reveals their location of the eggs to the cane toad tadpoles. This attractant is at the core of tadpole trapping.

What is the chemistry behind tadpole trapping? Chemical analysis identified the attractant released by eggs as very closely related to adult cane toad toxin. Female toads deposit a modified version of adult toxin to protect eggs from potential predators, unaware that this chemistry exposes the eggs to cannibalism by tadpoles.

How does the Uni create the tadpole attractant? As it is impractical to source attractant chemistry from egg masses, we harvest related chemistry from dead adult cane toads. We work with approved Uni Affiliates to redirect and recycle dead toads acquired during toad busting activities to our laboratory. To recover attractant involves excising the parotoid glands, followed by batch-wise blending and enzymatic transformation, extraction, fractionation, purification and chemical analysis. Importantly, this process removes non-attractant chemicals, as well as all traces of animal tissue, to deliver a product that can be formulated as tadpole attractant baits.

How do harvest the toadpoles? You create this type of trap, put in the attractant baits and place it in the shallows of a water course. The effort comes in by harvesting the live collected toad poles and then euthanizing then, by freezing them. They can then be disposed of.

The trap is a cheap plastic box with some funnels – as simple as that.

The full story can be located by a google search "Cane Toad Challenge" or follow this web link -- https://imb.uq.edu.au/canetoadchallenge

You may see these plastic boxes at the edges of our lake. **<u>Please do not touch the attractant inside the box</u>**.