



# Potoroo Postings

Issue # 2024/2



## CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
CALENDAR	1
FROM THE CHAIR	2
VOLUNTEERING	3
Gilbert's Potoroo on new set of Zooniverse images!	3
Volunteers require a DBCA Dieback Green Card	4
FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS	4
Ongoing Fundraisers	4
Containers for Change	4
Awareness Raising	5
South Coast Threatened Species Forum 2024	5
GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS	7
2019 State NRM Grant completed	7
New funding for awareness raising	8
MERCHANDISE	9
MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM	10
MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM	11

## CALENDAR

**NOTE: All volunteers undertaking field work with GPAG require a DBCA Dieback Green Card. See details on page 5**

The first part of 2025 will be taken up primarily with the final reporting on our completed 2019 State NRM grant (see pg 7 for details). We have various field projects, events and fundraising events in the planning stages but no dates to report ... yet...

GPAG members will be emailed with more details on upcoming events & volunteering opportunities as dates etc firm up. Non-members should keep an eye on our social media channels & website for more information or email [mail@potoroo.org](mailto:mail@potoroo.org). or join GPAG by visiting <https://www.potoroo.org/join-us> so you don't miss out!!

## Season's Greetings

As usual, a huge thank you to all our members, donors, supporters, volunteers and followers who have helped and supported us throughout 2024. We couldn't keep doing what we do without you all! 2024 marked 30 years since the rediscovery of Gilbert's Potoroo on December 1<sup>st</sup> 1994. A lot has happened in that time but its survival against the odds is definitely something to celebrate. 2025 looks like being another busy year with some new funding from South Coast NRM for events and awareness raising (see pg 8) and lots of plans for other activities to keep doing what we can to help keep Gilbert's Potoroo in the world for another 30 years (and beyond...).

Take care everyone and wishing you all a safe, healthy, and happy year in 2025

With very best wishes from the GPAG Team



Contact us: Email: [mail@potoroo.org](mailto:mail@potoroo.org), Mail: PO Box 654, Albany, WA 6331

Visit us: [www.potoroo.org](http://www.potoroo.org)

Follow us:  @gilbertspotoroo  @GilbertsPotorooActionGroup  @gilbertspotoroo

## FROM THE CHAIR

### A Very Successful Forum

GPAG's third South Coast Threatened Species Forum, held on November 30 and December 1 in Albany, succeeded in ways that I had not expected. The fact that as many as 21 papers were submitted and 20 presented (unfortunately one had to withdraw due to illness) by speakers from a wide range of backgrounds, from government and university scientists to community leaders and Indigenous rangers was impressive enough, but of particular note was the diversity of animals and plants that were revealed to be under threat, and the extent of community involvement in actions to mitigate the threat.

For the first time we had papers on marine mammals (the Southern Right Whale), freshwater fish (the Spotted Trout Minnow) and the role of citizen science in the discovery of six new threatened species of carnivorous plants. In fact, the extent of volunteer involvement in the discovery and management of threatened species, and in the management of cats and foxes threatening those species, was a highlight of the Forum. Moves are afoot to better co-ordinate the activities of volunteer organisations such as ours in the fight against introduced predators.

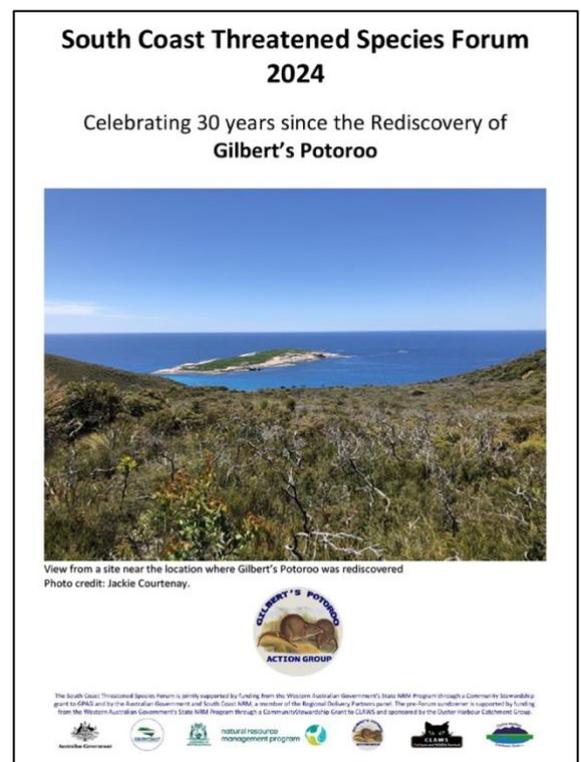
At a social function after the Forum I was asked whether the Forum had met all of our key objectives. I didn't really know how to answer this question. Our "key objectives" are, after all, to help ensure the survival of Gilbert's Potoroo. But I think that, thanks to Jackie's energy and organising skills, the Forum has yet again promoted awareness of Gilbert's Potoroo in the public eye and contributed to its chances of recovery. It is a tradition well worth continuing.

I wish you a happy and healthy year in 2025 and look forward to more events over the coming years and to the next Forum in 2026.

Alan



Above: Menang Elder Vernice Gillies delivering the Welcome to Country and discussing Noongar conservation. Right: The cover of the Forum programme and book of abstracts which is available on the GPAG website (link to download it on pg 6).

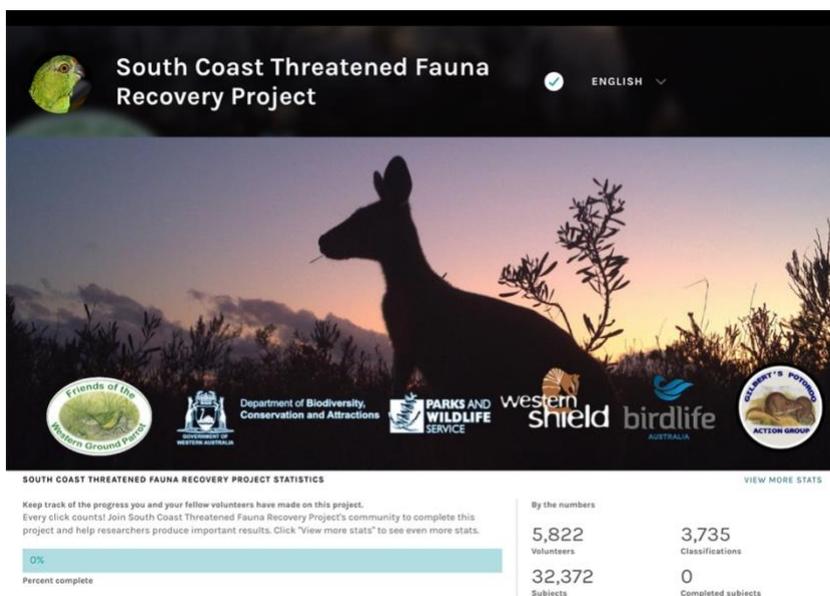


## VOLUNTEERING

### Gilbert's Potoroo seen on the new set of Zooniverse images!

It has been a quite a few months since Two Peoples Bay images have been available on Zooniverse as part of the South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project as the last batch of images were only from Cape Arid and Waychinicup. We are therefore very excited that the new batch of just over 32,300 "subjects" (sets of 3 images from a single camera firing) made available by DBCA in mid-October is from Two Peoples Bay only! What is even more exciting is that this batch includes images captured since the translocations at the end of 2022 and the first Potoroo (carrying a tail transmitter) appeared in an image from December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This Potoroo is one of the animals brought to Two Peoples Bay from Bald Island as part of a series of translocations carried out in late 2022 to start rebuilding the population at Two Peoples Bay after it was left functionally extinct following the 2015 fire. GPAG helped to fund those translocations, as well as follow up predator monitoring and control, through our Environment Restoration Fund grant from the Australian Government (see Potoroo Postings #2022/2).

While the screen shot above lists 5822 volunteers at the time the Two Peoples Bay images went up in October, this number had increased to 6607 as of December 30 with volunteers participating from all over the world. If you wish to try analysing some images you can do so at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/abbsta/south-coast-threatened-fauna-recovery-project> after completing a simple registration process. Images can be analysed without registering but you will not be able to participate in any of the discussions or ask questions. Looking forward to seeing the number of volunteers joining us in this important project continue to grow and especially looking forward to seeing more Potoroos popping up on the cameras!!



Above: Combined screen shots of the Zooniverse home page illustration and the project statistics showing numbers of volunteers who have participated in the project in total and numbers of Subjects available to analyse in this batch of images.



Above: The first Potoroo to appear on the cameras at Two Peoples Bay following the translocations. Photos are taken a few seconds apart on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and are shared under Creative Commons 4.0 International License.

## \*IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT VOLUNTEERING\*

### All volunteers for field work with GPAG require a DBCA Dieback Green Card

Once again, this is just a reminder that, if you wish to volunteer with GPAG on our various field projects, DBCA require us all to complete Dieback Green Card training. The training can be done at home and takes about an hour to complete. The card can then be either posted out or collected at the DBCA office in Albany. If you think that you might be interested in volunteering sometime in the future, even if you are not planning to immediately, it is a good idea to complete your training and get your Green Card as soon as possible so that you are able to participate at short notice when opportunities arise or you are available. Please email Jackie Courtenay on [communications@potoroo.org](mailto:communications@potoroo.org) if you want to undertake the training and she will email you the training materials. [Back to page 1](#)

## FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

### Ongoing Fundraisers

#### Containers for Change

**GPAG Member #: C10289767**

It's that time of year again with all the end of year parties, family gatherings and celebrations and Containers for Change are again gently reminding people to plan to prevent the associated abundance of festive 10c drink containers from heading to landfill. In an email to members, Containers for Change noted that in 2024, 986 million containers were returned resulting in \$98.6 million being returned to the people of Western Australia of which \$3.6 million was donated to local

causes. That is a lot of glass, aluminium, plastic and cardboard saved from landfill and a great contribution to WA charities and community groups to support their important work. We join with Containers for Change in encouraging all our members to save and return their 10c drink containers to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill (year-round – not just at Christmas/New Year!) – and, if you feel so inclined, we would be delighted to receive your refund as a donation to help GPAG to continue to help save Gilbert's Potoroo. Our member number to donate to is highlighted in red at the top of this section.

From October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> generous supporters donated \$131.20 in refunds from their drink containers returned for recycling bringing the total amount donated to GPAG in 2024 to \$762.10. Thank you to everyone who has donated their refunds over the past year and we look forward to even more generous contributions in 2025.



Drop-off point locations and information on what types of containers are accepted for refunds can be found at the following link <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa>. Thank you once again for any support you can give us. [Back to page 1](#)

## Awareness Raising

### South Coast Threatened Species Forum 2024

GPAG's third South Coast Threatened Species Forum was held on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 with the joint aims of (i) celebrating 30 years since the rediscovery of Gilbert's Potoroo at Two Peoples Bay on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1994, and (ii) showcasing the range of threatened species projects being undertaken in Western Australia particularly those involving volunteers and citizen science.

A pre-Forum sundowner was hosted by CLAWS (Cat Laws and Wildlife Survival Working Group) and the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group (OCHG) as part of their final event celebrating the end of their State NRM Community Stewardship Grant project. It included an art exhibition, art competition awards presentations and unveiling of an artwork CLAWS had commissioned to raise awareness about the impact of roaming cats on native fauna. Jackie Courtenay gave a short presentation on behalf of GPAG about the 4 year (and ongoing) collaboration between GPAG and CLAWS and reported on some results of the Zooniverse volunteer camera trap image analysis project helping DBCA monitor feral predators (including of course cats!) at Two Peoples Bay. This event was a great opportunity for GPAG to reach a slightly different audience and we are grateful to CLAWS and OHCG for the invitation to participate.



Above: Artist Sobrane Simcocky (left) and CLAWS Project Officer Jenni Loveland (right) unveiling the commissioned artwork that will be used on educational signage to raise awareness of the impact of roaming cats on native fauna. Photo: Cassie Dressler

The Forum included a total of 20 presentations from 22 individuals over 1.5 days, plus the Welcome to Country and discussion of Noongar conservation by Menang Elder Vernice Gillies and pre-recorded opening remarks from the Acting Threatened Species Commissioner, Jacqui Goonrey. Tony Friend gave the keynote address as the first formal presentation of the forum entitled "Translocation from insurance populations allows post-fire restoration of Gilbert's Potoroo at the site of the last natural population". His presentation discussed the recent reintroductions of Gilbert's Potoroos back to Two Peoples Bay now that the habitat seems to have recovered sufficiently to support them following the 2015 fire.



Above: Tony Friend giving the keynote address to start the South Coast Threatened Species Forum 2024. Photo: Elizabeth Needham

There were 15 presentations on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> and 5 on Sunday morning December 1<sup>st</sup> covering a wide range of topics including threatened mammals (including whales), birds, frogs, fish, crustaceans, and plants as well as two presentations on the threat of feral and roaming cats and the work being done both nationally and in the local community around Albany to try and raise public awareness and curb their impact. One speaker scheduled for Sunday morning was unfortunately unable to attend. Eleven of the presentations reported on projects that had a strong citizen science or volunteer component and it was great to see the many different ways in which the community has been and can be involved in threatened species projects. The forum was attended by 52 people on the Saturday and 33 on the Sunday. The [full programme booklet](#) including the schedule of speakers and abstracts of all of the talks can be downloaded from our website from the above link.



Above: Thilo Kreuger giving the last talk of the Saturday programme on “How citizen scientists and social media discovered six new species of threatened plants” Photo: Elizabeth Needham



Above left: First talk of the Sunday morning session. Paul Close discussing “Going with the flow: river flows support the entire life history of the endangered Spotted Trout Minnow (*Galaxias truttaceus*). Above right: Liz Kington talking about “Bushwalking with a purpose – Citizen science Malleefowl monitoring. Photos: Leigh Whisson

A conference dinner attended by 22 people was held at Rustlers restaurant on the Saturday night which included a short speech by GPAG Chairperson Alan Needham celebrating 30 years since the rediscovery of Gilbert’s Potoroo. It was otherwise a purely social event and a great opportunity for people to continue the conversations started at the Forum and for partners and friends who were not attending the Forum to enjoy participating in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in a less formal atmosphere.

The Sunday Forum was followed by a lunch event at Phillips Brooke Estate Winery including relaxed informal cultural discussions with Menang Elder Vernice Gillies and a workshop to learn basket weaving led by Mand Markey. The original intention was to have the lunch and basket weaving using natural materials at Two Peoples Bay, however rain was forecast for Sunday afternoon and a decision had to be made on Friday morning so it was decided to be safe and move the event to the Winery. It is a lovely venue and provided a beautiful ambience for the lunch and suitable location for the basket weaving. We are very

grateful to Narda Street from Woodfired Treats who offered her venue at Phillips Brooke Estate Winery at short notice and catered the event with a delicious meal of biriyani, sourdough bread and salad.



Far left: Pre-lunch drinks at Phillips Brooke Estate Winery  
Left: Lunch!  
Photos: Lynnette Beekwilder-Reed



Above left: Weaving lesson: Liz Tanner (left) and weaving tutor Mand Markey (right). Above middle: Sorting out the raffia: Far left Bree Merritt, centre Jen Merritt, right Vernice Gillies, back Leigh Whisson. Photos: Liz Tanner. Above right: Not bad for a first attempt! Photo (and basket weaving) by Bree Merritt

The Forum and post-Forum lunch were jointly supported by funding from the Western Australian Government’s State NRM Program through a Community Stewardship Grant to Gilbert’s Potoroo Action Group and by the Australian Government and South Coast NRM, a member of the Regional Delivery Partners panel.

The next South Coast Threatened Species Forum will be held in late November or early December 2026 (dates to be confirmed) and will celebrate 25 years since the founding of Gilbert’s Potoroo Action Group following a public meeting held in Albany in November 2001. It is hard work organising and running the Forum but it always receives such an enthusiastic response from attendees that it makes the effort worthwhile. Looking forward to doing it all again in 2 years’ time!

[Back to page 1](#)

## GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS

### 2019 State NRM Grant completed

GPAG’s 2019 State NRM Community Stewardship Large Grant entitled “Building Community Involvement in Saving the Critically Endangered Gilbert’s Potoroo” was finally completed on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and we are now into the intensive reporting phase. The grant was originally for 3 years but a combination of unexpected disruptions caused by COVID and unavoidable delays in the reintroduction of Gilbert’s

Potoroos back to Two Peoples Bay by DBCA meant the project ended up running for 5 years. Over the course of the grant we held 12 awareness raising events including the 2021 South Coast Threatened Species Forum, 2023 Kepa Kurl Community Conservation Forum in Esperance, and launches of the Gilbert's Potoroo genome and Zooniverse project, produced 12 newsletters and gained 902 followers on social media across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in the first 3 years, completed four citizen science/volunteer projects including vegetation surveys, fungi surveys, and two intensive radio-tracking fortnights organised by DBCA. We purchased 30 camera traps, 15 to support DBCA's monitoring of feral predators at Two Peoples Bay (volunteers assisted with their deployment and servicing), and 10 and 5 to monitor Potoroos on Middle Island and Bald Island respectively. Another 5 cameras were purchased using funds donated to GPAG to create an array of 10 camera traps on Bald Island.

While we are still working out the exact numbers, with the incredible international response to the DBCA South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project on Zooniverse that enables volunteers to identify the images from the Two Peoples Bay camera traps funded by this project, over 5000 volunteers have engaged with various projects over the 5 years. We have also built some important new partnerships most notably with CLAWS (mentioned above) and Duke of Edinburgh's International Awards (announced in Potoroo Postings 2023/#1). Our membership has grown to over 100 members which was our goal at the start of the project, and we will be working hard to maintain and continue to increase our membership going forward. We are extremely grateful to the three project managers at State NRM who have steadfastly supported us throughout this journey over the past 5 years (thank you – you know who you are!) and overall, despite some unexpected hurdles and delays, we are really happy with what we have achieved.

[Back to page 1](#)

### **New funding from South Coast NRM to raise awareness of Gilbert's Potoroo**

In early November, South Coast NRM announced an exciting new 4-year project funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust entitled "Targeted Action for Highly Threatened Species in the South Coast Region". The project is dedicated to the recovery of three highly threatened species - the Ngilkat (Gilbert's Potoroo), Kyloriny (Western Ground Parrot), and Djimalaap (Noisy Scrub-bird). GPAG are proud to be working with South Coast NRM to help deliver some of the public awareness activities that form part of this project. South Coast NRM will provide GPAG with funding for four awareness raising events over the next 4 years, as well as the 2026 South Coast Threatened Species Forum, new brochures (our old ones have become very out of date) and a promotional video.



Ngilkat or Gilbert's Potoroo is one of the three highly threatened species that are targeted by the newly announced South Coast NRM 4-year project. Photo credit: Dick Walker and GPAG

South Coast NRM provide more information about the larger project in this [Facebook post](#). [Back to page 1](#)

## MERCHANDISE



**WATERCOLOUR CARDS:** Quality hand-made cards featuring a picture of Gilbert's Potoroo from a watercolour by Jann van der Helder. Blank inside.  
\$4 each or 5 for \$16.

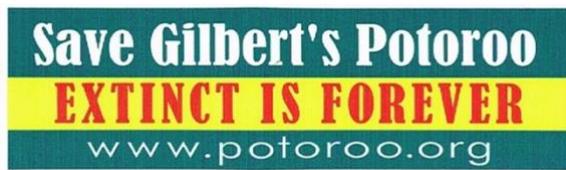


Printed by the Environmental Printing Company on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. Blank inside.  
\$5 each or 5 for \$20.

**JO HARRIS CARDS:** Quality cards featuring a painting of Gilbert's Potoroo by Jo Harris based on a photograph by Dick Walker.



**BLACK & WHITE CARDS:** Quality cards featuring a pen and ink drawing of a Gilbert's Potoroo by Jackie Courtenay from a photograph by Katrin Witt. Printed by the Environmental Printing Company on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. Blank inside.  
\$5 each or 5 for \$20.



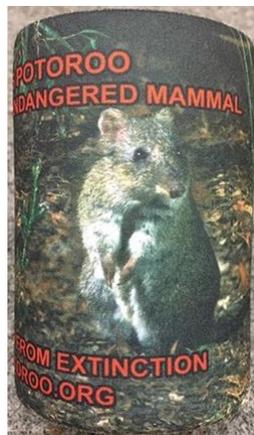
**BUMPER STICKERS:** FREE with other items



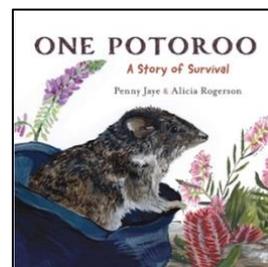
**POSTCARDS:** Featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker and information about the Potoroo on both the front and back  
FREE with other items



**TEATOWELS:** Printed on 100% cotton with some key facts about Gilbert's Potoroo! Tea towel design by Sandy O'Doherty  
\$10 each or 3 for \$25

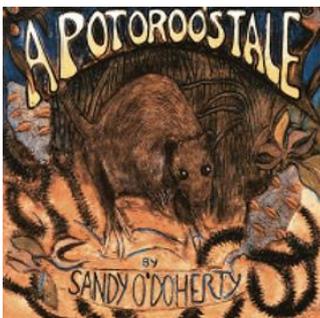


**STUBBY HOLDERS:** Designed by GPAG members featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker.  
\$10 each or 2 for \$15

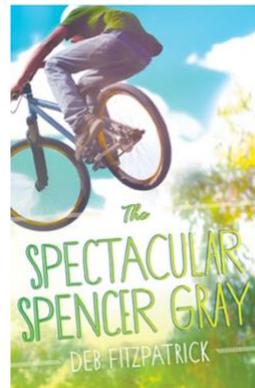


**ONE POTOROO: A STORY OF SURVIVAL:** A heart-warming story of disaster and rescue of one Potoroo

caught in the Two Peoples Bay fire by Penny Jaye, with beautiful illustrations by Alicia Rogerson. 35% of the sale price goes to Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.  
\$25 each



**A POTOROO'S TALE:** A delightful book written and beautifully illustrated by Albany artist Sandy O'Doherty. All profits from the sale of the book will go to the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.  
\$15 each



**THE SPECTACULAR SPENCER GRAY:** The award winning adventure story by Deb Fitzpatrick featuring Gilbert's Potoroo and the return of Spencer Gray in a spectacular adventure. 30% of the sale price of the book will go to Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.  
\$15 each

## MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

ABN 75 191 868 479 (Tax Invoice when paid)

Item	Cost/item	Quantity	Total Cost
Watercolour Card (ea)	\$4.00		
Watercolour Cards (5 pk)	\$16.00		
Jo Harris Card	\$5.00		
Jo Harris Cards (5 pk)	\$20.00		
B&W Potoroo Card	\$5.00		
B&W Potoroo Cards (5 pk)	\$20.00		
Postcards (ea)	FREE		
Bumper Stickers (ea)	FREE		
Tea towels (ea)	\$10.00		
Tea towels (3 pk)	\$25.00		
Stubby Holders (ea)	\$10.00		
Stubby Holders (2 pk)	\$15.00		
One Potoroo	\$25.00		
A Potoroos Tale	\$15.00		
Spectacular Spencer Gray	\$15.00		
		<b>Product total</b>	
		<b>Postage &amp; packing (&lt;500g)*</b>	\$10.00
		<b>Add a donation?</b>	
		<b>Total Cost</b>	

\* Within Australia. Postage for larger and overseas orders will need to be costed individually depending on weight and destination. You will be contacted by the Treasurer with a final quote for postage if your order weighs more than 500g or you need the items sent overseas.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Methods

**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** Bendigo Bank BSB: 633-000; Account Number: 164 347 999  
 Please include your surname and "Merchandise" in the Reference line and email order form to [treasurer@potoroo.org](mailto:treasurer@potoroo.org)

**CHEQUE:** Please make cheques payable to **Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc**

Send To:     The Treasurer  
               Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc  
               PO Box 654  
               Albany, WA 6331

## MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

To become a member of GILBERT'S POTOROO ACTION GROUP INC, fill out the form below and either pay your subscription by direct deposit and email the form to [treasurer@potoroo.org](mailto:treasurer@potoroo.org) or print out and return by mail with a cheque enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth if Under 15 Years \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Tax Invoice

### Subscription \$22 per year

Includes GST

#### Payment Methods

**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** Bendigo Bank; BSB: 633-000; Account Number: 164 347 999

Please include your surname and "Membership" in the Reference line.

**CHEQUE:** Please make cheques payable to **Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc**

Send To:           The Treasurer  
                       Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc  
                       PO Box 654  
                       Albany, WA 6331

**Privacy Policy:** The information you have disclosed other than your name and contact details is restricted to committee members. No one outside the association is given access to your personal details without your permission.

<b>OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>	Nominated By: _____ Membership Accepted: YES/NO	Receipt No _____ Date Paid    _/___/___ Register     _____
------------------------------	--	--

## DONATIONS

As a Nationally Registered Environmental Organisation the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc. offers tax deductible donation facilities. To claim **tax benefits**, your donation must be a **minimum of \$2** and made payable to the **GPAG Public Tax Deductible Donation Fund**. Tax deductible donations can also be made through our website [www.potoroo.org](http://www.potoroo.org).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment Methods

**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** Bendigo Bank; BSB: 633-000; Account Number: 178 804 555

Please include your surname and Donation in the Reference line and email this form to [treasurer@potoroo.org](mailto:treasurer@potoroo.org)

**CHEQUE:** Please make cheques payable to **Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc Public Tax Deductible Donation Fund**

Send To:           The Treasurer  
                       Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc  
                       PO Box 654  
                       Albany, WA 6331