



# Potoroo Postings

Issue # 2025/1



## CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
CALENDAR	1
FROM THE CHAIR	2
VOLUNTEERING	3
Feral predator camera servicing at Two Peoples Bay: February 2025	3
More Gilbert's Potoroos returned to Two Peoples Bay	3
Volunteers require a DBCA Dieback Green Card	4
FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS	5
Ongoing Fundraisers	5
Containers for Change: More Accepted Containers Soon	5
Awareness Raising	5
Article on Potoroo recovery published	5
GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS	6
Report on 2019 State NRM Large Grant completed	6
MERCHANDISE	7
MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM	8
MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM	9

## CALENDAR

**NOTE: All volunteers undertaking field work with GPAG require a DBCA Dieback Green Card. See details on page 4**

**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).**

**August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025:** GPAG AGM both in person and online if you can't make it in Albany. We are looking for a new Secretary – see the From the Chair section on pg. 2 for more details

**Spring (dates to be confirmed):** Servicing motion sensing cameras at Two Peoples Bay. Exact dates to be advised by DBCA.

## PACIFIC CONSERVATION BIOLOGY ARTICLE

An article by Tony Friend (DBCA), Elizabeth Sinclair (UWA) and Jackie Courtenay (GPAG) tracing the journey of Gilbert's Potoroo since European colonisation of Western Australia was published in the journal Pacific Conservation Biology on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The article includes a section describing research on the importance of community involvement in threatened species recovery and specifically the contribution of GPAG to helping save Gilbert's Potoroo. See page 5 for more details including links to the paper itself and media reports about it.



Fig. 4. Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group (GPAG) and community volunteers in action. (a, b) Changing sand in the potoroo pens, (c) labelling the vintage at Jingalla winery, (d) Rottneest Channel swim team in 2022, (e) collaborative art fundraiser at 25th anniversary dinner, (f) abseil off the QVI building in 2019, and (g) Gilbert counting the funds.

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)

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## FROM THE CHAIR

### Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team and Upcoming AGM

#### Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team

Members may not be aware that DBCA has a "team" of scientists and representatives from universities, other government bodies, South Coast NRM, Indigenous organisations and GPAG. It meets twice yearly and is charged with the oversight of all work being done to save Gilbert's Potoroo from extinction.

GPAG has been a member of this team since our incorporation in 2002 and has attended every meeting since. In writing our 6-monthly reports to the Recovery Team I am always surprised by how much we have achieved, thanks largely to the hard work of Jackie, Leigh and Jen, and how much we contribute financially to the Potoroo recovery programme, thanks to the donations of members and supporters and to our success in obtaining State and Commonwealth grants. At the next Recovery Team meeting in July, we will be reporting the completion of all the requirements of our 2019 grant, with very successful outcomes.

#### We Need a Secretary

After many years as Secretary, Jen is stepping aside to concentrate on the Treasurer's role and grant management. As Jen mentioned in her notice of our AGM (now rescheduled to **21<sup>st</sup> August** due to unavoidable circumstances affecting four of the committee members), the duties are not onerous and she will be available to help and advise. If you are willing to assist in this way on our friendly Committee or would like to discuss the possibility, please contact us on [mail@potoroo.org](mailto:mail@potoroo.org).

Alan



## VOLUNTEERING

### Feral predator camera servicing at Two Peoples Bay: February 2025

The most recent round of camera servicing at Two Peoples Bay was carried out by DBCA on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> assisted by GPAG's most regular camera servicing volunteer, David Wettenhall. As well as servicing the existing cameras, the trip also involved the replacement of a camera damaged by a Quokka (see Potoroo Postings 2023/#1 and 2023/#3 for images of Quokka damaged cameras). The new camera was funded by GPAG from generous donations from our supporters and was fitted with a protective case by DBCA to avoid any future damage from the Quokkas in that area who, for some unknown reason, have a particular fondness for chewing on the camera cases!



Above top: Volunteer David Wettenhall preparing for the cross-country walk to the next camera. Photo by Aline Gibson Vega. Above: DBCA staff member Aline Gibson Vega servicing a camera. Photo by David Wettenhall. Left: The new GPAG funded camera now *in situ* in its (hopefully) Quokka-proof protective case. Photo by Aline Gibson Vega.

[Back to page 1](#)

### More Gilbert's Potoroos returned to Two Peoples Bay

In April and May 2025 DBCA undertook two further translocations of Potoroos from Bald Island and the Waychinicup Enclosure back to Two Peoples Bay to further reinforce the recovering population there. Bronte Van Helden from South Coast NRM attended the release of the animals from Waychinicup and her summary of the translocation is in this [Facebook post](#).

In September 2024 GPAG had funded the transmitters and GPS data-loggers that were used in the translocations to monitor the Potoroos for the first few weeks after their release. Each Potoroo released had both a radio-transmitter and a GPS data logger strapped to the base of its tail. These usually fall off after about 6 weeks when the strapping fails. The radio-transmitters enable the researchers to determine



Above: Tony Friend (DBCA) fitting the transmitter package to the tail of a Gilbert's Potoroo in preparation for its release at Two Peoples Bay. The Potoroo is being held by DBCA volunteer Anne Cochrane. Photo: Bronte Van Helden, South Coast NRM

the approximate location of the Potoroos and whether the transmitter is still moving, and thus presumably still attached to a living Potoroo, from changes in the signal as explained by Tony Friend in Potoroo Postings 2023/#2.

The GPS data loggers send a regular signal to a satellite and in return obtain details of their GPS location which is recorded by the data logger. Once the data logger is retrieved, the details of the animal's movements can be downloaded and mapped. The GPS data loggers provide much more detailed information about the animals' movements and habitat use than radio-tracking but they do not emit a trackable signal. The radio-transmitters are therefore essential as well, not just to tell the researchers approximately where the animals are, and if they are apparently still alive, but also to enable the GPS data loggers to be retrieved when the strapping fails and the transmitter package falls off, or the animal dies.

The video of the animal being released that the still picture (right) is taken from can be viewed at this South Coast NRM Facebook Video link <https://www.facebook.com/SouthCoastNRM/videos/642935478102456>

Whether the animal is dead or the transmitter has simply fallen off, it is important to retrieve the transmitter package as soon as possible before the transmitter battery runs out and both the transmitter and the GPS data logger are lost forever somewhere in the bush.

Thanks to GPAG volunteer David Wettenhall and DBCA volunteer Anne Cochrane who assisted DBCA with the translocation.

### **\*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 one 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 note that the card will have a 12-month expiry date written on it but it does not need to be renewed every year. 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 or if you have any other questions she will endeavour to answer them or will find out the information from DBCA.



Above: Tony Friend (DBCA) releasing a Potoroo at Two Peoples Bay. The transmitter package strapped to its tail is clearly visible. The image is a still from a video by Bronte Van Helden, South Coast NRM

[Back to page 1](#)

## FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

### Ongoing Fundraisers

#### **Containers for Change – Expansion of Accepted Containers Coming Soon...**

**GPAG Member #: C10289767**

As you may have heard, on February 8<sup>th</sup> (prior to the WA State election), the WA Premier announced that if Labor were re-elected they would be expanding the range of drink containers, including wine bottles, that will be accepted for the 10c refund via Containers for Change. On their FAQ page

(<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa/faq?c>),

Containers for Change advise that this will not be coming into effect until a launch date is announced and in the meantime the containers proposed for inclusion in the Scheme should be disposed of in the normal recycling. We are looking forward to the expansion of this program and hopefully more donations as a result – every 10c helps!!!

From January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 generous supporters donated \$481.50 in refunds from their drink containers returned for recycling. That's a fantastic 4815 drink containers recycled – a great donation to GPAG but also a lot of plastic, aluminium, glass and cardboard saved from landfill!!!

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

#### **Article on Potoroo recovery published in Pacific Conservation Biology**

On February 6<sup>th</sup> an article entitled “From rediscovery towards recovery: A recent history of Australia’s most critically endangered marsupial, Gilbert’s Potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*)” was published in the journal Pacific Conservation Biology as part of a special Two Peoples Bay issue. The article, written by Tony Friend (DBCA), Elizabeth Sinclair (University of Western Australia) and Jackie Courtenay (GPAG) is open access and can be read at the following link <https://www.publish.csiro.au/pc/pdf/PC24103>. The other open access articles that form part of the special issue on Two Peoples Bay can be found at this link:

<https://www.publish.csiro.au/pc/collection/12055>

The University of Western Australia (<https://www.uwa.edu.au/news/article/2025/february/worlds-rarest-marsupial-shows-signs-of-recovery-after-near-extinction>) and Science Media Exchange issued press releases about the article which resulted in a flurry of national and international publicity. Lead author, DBCA's Tony Friend, was interviewed on ABC Perth Drive on February 6<sup>th</sup> but that segment is no longer available on Listen Back. He was also interviewed on ABC News the same night and you can still watch that



interview at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-06/researchers-map-conservation-efforts-for-gilberts-potoroos/104906870>.

SBS Australia also published an online article <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/this-rare-kangaroo-rat-once-on-the-brink-of-extinction-has-had-a-comeback/n5nfddrsh> that has had quite a lot of engagement and sharing by different organisations as well so has had good impact.

There was also some great international publicity for the paper. The first article <https://www.earth.com/news/worlds-rarest-marsupial-is-fighting-for-survival-again/> published by a conservation website based in the US is the most detailed one we have seen and uses information from the article itself (as well as the The University of Western Australia press release) and gives GPAG a nice plug, so of course we love it. A second article <https://phys.org/news/2025-02-world-rarest-marsupial-recovery-extinction.html>, also from an international science website, more closely follows the UWA press release.

It has been so exciting seeing so much publicity for the paper which has hopefully raised awareness of the ongoing plight of Gilbert's Potoroo, as well as the successes achieved over 30 years of hard work by all the people trying to help save it. Thanks to everyone involved.

[Back to page 1](#)

## GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS

### Reporting on the 2019 State NRM Large Grant completed

The final report on GPAG's 2019 State NRM Large Community Stewardship Grant was submitted on May 21<sup>st</sup>. As described in Potoroo Postings 2024/#4 it was a huge project covering 5 years of work and, as a result, it was a huge report including details of 12 events, copies of 12 newsletters, reports on the four citizen science/volunteer projects – fungi surveys, vegetation surveys, two intensive radio-tracking fortnights (reports provided by DBCA) and feral predator monitoring – as well as an education package and reports (provided by DBCA) on the 10 cameras for Middle Island and 5 for Bald Island. We have been advised that the report has passed the first stage of assessment and we are now waiting for the final endorsement of what has been an intense, but overall extremely successful, project.

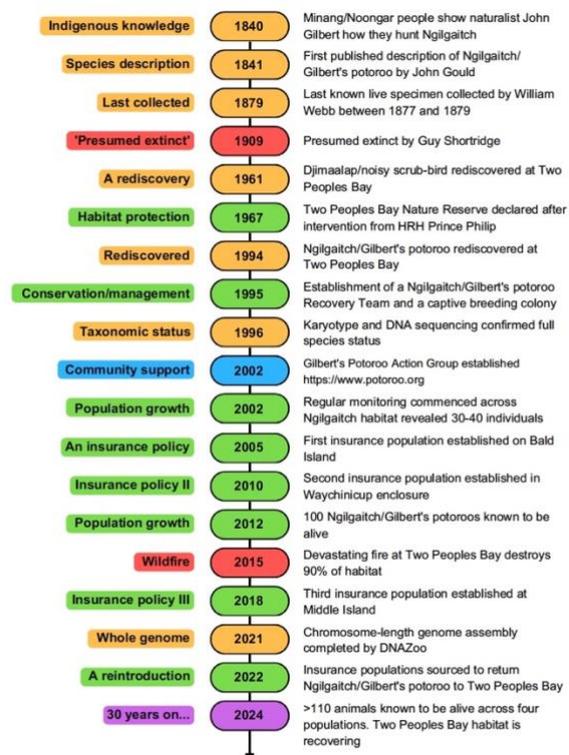


Fig. 3. Timeline of significant events for Ngilgaitch/*P. gilbertii* since European colonisation.

Above: Figure 3 from the *Pacific Conservation Biology* paper (Friend *et al*, 2025, p. 4) linked in the text on the previous page summarising the timeline of events in the history of Gilbert's Potoroo since European colonisation of Western Australia.



**Thank you, your submission has been received.**

# 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.

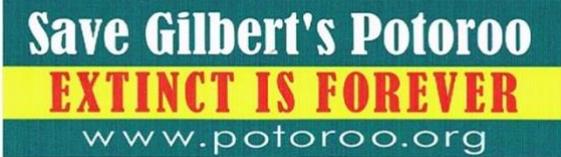


Printed by the Environmental Printing Company on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. Blank inside.  
\$5 each or 5 for \$20.

**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.



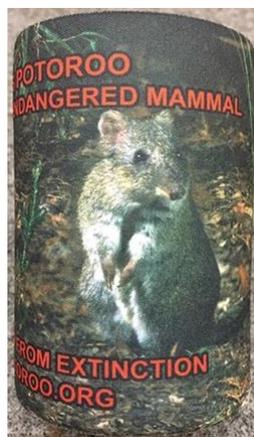
**BUMPER STICKERS:** FREE with other items



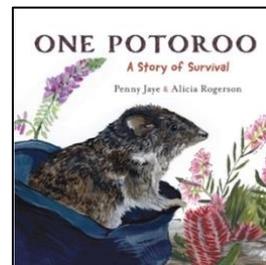
**POSTCARDS:** Featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker and information about the Potoroo on both the front and back  
FREE with other items



**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

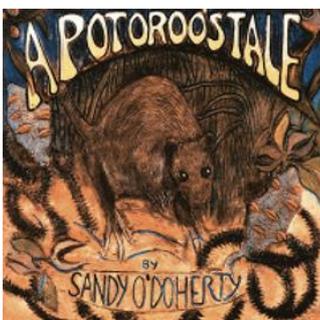


**STUBBY HOLDERS:** Designed by GPAG members featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker.  
\$10 each or 2 for \$15

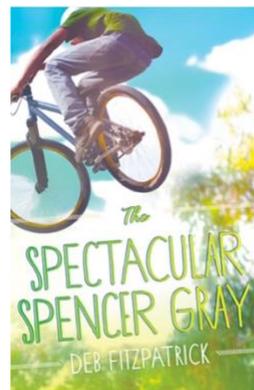


**ONE POTOROO: A STORY OF SURVIVAL:** A heart-warming story of disaster and rescue of one Potoroo

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     _____
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## 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