



# Potoroo Postings

Issue # 2025/2



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## GPAG AGM AUGUST 21

Final reminder that our 2025 AGM has been set for August 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm either in person at the DBCA Albany Old Cottage meeting room or online via Teams. Members have been sent an invitation via the group email with the new login details for those attending online. As mentioned in Potoroo Postings 2025#1 we are needing a new Secretary so if you are keen to help us out and join our lovely, hard-working committee please feel free to let one of our committee know you are happy to be nominated, or to nominate yourself at the meeting. We have not received any nominations for any committee positions prior to the closing date so nominations for all roles will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

## CALENDAR

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

**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 Albany. We are looking for a new Secretary so if you'd like to help us out we'd love to have you on board.

**September:** Servicing camera traps at Two Peoples Bay. Exact dates to be advised.

**September 7<sup>th</sup>:** National Threatened Species Day



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

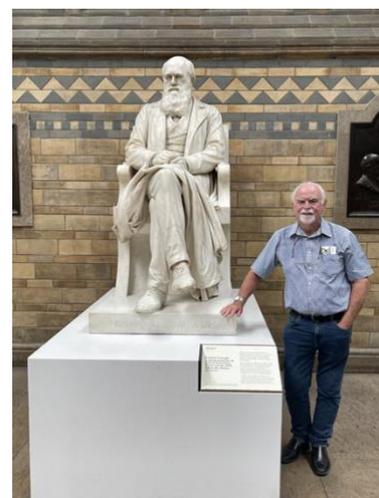
### Gilbert's Potoroo in London

On a recent visit to the Natural History Museum in London, I was reminded of a previous occasion at the museum about 20 years ago when I had the privilege of viewing the "type specimen" of Gilbert's Potoroo, originally designated *Hypsiprymnus gilbertii*. This was an adult female collected by John Gilbert in 1841 and taken to London where it was given a formal scientific name by John Gould and preserved as the type specimen of the species. To have been permitted to handle and examine it is something I shall always remember.



Above: Gilbert's Potoroo type specimen, courtesy of the Natural History Museum, London. Right: The author with someone who might have seen Gilbert's Potoroo in 1836.

Type specimens are of great importance to taxonomists. The scientific name (which often changes with time) of an animal or plant is usually based on one particular specimen kept in a museum or other secure collection. In the days before genetic and DNA analyses, physical comparison with type specimens was often the only way of determining the relationships of a newly discovered animal or plant. The type specimens of many Australian mammals are still held in European museums, a long way from the scientists who study them and are still most likely to need access to them.



Whilst overseas museums have done a great job in preserving these important materials for more than two centuries, there is no doubt that modern Australian museums are up to the task. The current international trend towards repatriating cultural artefacts to their country of origin should perhaps be extended to bringing some of our own biological heritage home. It would be nice to welcome the "original" *Potorous gilbertii* back to WA.

Alan

## VOLUNTEERING

### Volunteering - Behind the scenes

Owing to wet weather and the consequent dieback risk during the last few months GPAG have been unable to undertake any of the field work for our 2022 State NRM grant and, since February, DBCA have not contacted the Committee with requests for volunteers for any trapping or other field programs, so there is no field work volunteering to report this time. However, that does not mean that volunteering by the Committee ground to a halt! Behind the scenes committee members have been working on preparing for the AGM scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>, completing some awareness raising videos and working on designs for a new GPAG brochure to meet the requirements of funding from a South Coast NRM grant, starting to put together ideas for events and fundraisers planned for later in the year and early next year, beginning planning for the 2026 South Coast Threatened Species Forum to be held at the end of next year, working on a progress report for our 2022 State NRM Large grant, preparing for and attending the July Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team meeting (as mentioned by GPAG Chair Alan Needham in Potoroo Postings 2025#1) as well as the ongoing monthly financial management and other administrative and reporting tasks.

These volunteer contributions are essential for the ongoing operation of GPAG but are not limited to the elected committee members. Some of our most successful fundraising events in recent years have been initiated by members and supporters. The amazing former Quarantine Team helped get permissions for the establishment of the Dawesville Bridge Swing and then participated in it in 2017 and 2018 raising over \$5000 (see Potoroo Postings 2019/#1 for more about this team).

In early 2022, Fettes Falconer and his team "Old with Attitude" used their already planned Rottnest Island swim as an opportunity to fundraise for the Potoroos and in late 2022 Shelley Foster set up an independent fundraiser "Chopping my Locks" both to raise money for GPAG and contribute her hair to make wigs for people who needed them. Other individuals and teams (not necessarily GPAG members or even associated with GPAG) participated in charity abseils off the QV1 building, raising thousands of dollars between 2018 and 2020. Various groups of school children have also raised money for GPAG by holding a cake stall or running a weekly shoe shining station at their school.

Every little bit helps whether it is an idea for fundraising, a suggestion for an event or awareness raising activity or just an offer to help with whatever skills you have to contribute. You don't have to be on the committee to contribute and, as volunteers ourselves, some of us also working full- or part-time, any ideas you have or offers to contribute your skills are gratefully appreciated (but we do also need a Secretary...).

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Photos from top: The 2018 Dawesville Bridge Swing team with Gilbert, the "Old with Attitude" Rottnest Island Swim team, Shelley Foster Before and After Chopping her Locks

## **\*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, left over from a previous system, 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.

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## **FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS**

### **Ongoing Fundraisers**

#### **Containers for Change**

**GPAG Member #: C10289767**

From May 14<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 generous supporters donated \$168.90 in refunds from their drink containers returned for recycling. That's a fantastic 1689 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.



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### **Awareness Raising**

#### **Article on Gilbert's Potoroo in *For People and Plants* magazine**

The Winter 2025 edition of *For People and Plants* (the magazine of the Friends of Kings Park) includes an article on Gilbert's Potoroo by Elizabeth Sinclair, Tony Friend and Jackie Courtenay. The article summarises the key points of the paper published in *Pacific Conservation Biology* in February (see Potoroo Postings 2025#1 for more details) and includes some extra photographs not included in that article. The magazine is for Friends of Kings Park members only as part of their membership subscription and is not available online but copies

Right: The cover of the Winter 2025 edition of *For People and Plants* magazine that includes the article on Gilbert's Potoroo.



can be purchased from Aspects of Kings Park for \$7.50. Even though it is not available online it is still great publicity for the Potoroos with an audience who may not otherwise hear about it.

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## South Coast NRM Art Competition and Factsheets

South Coast NRM have been doing some fantastic awareness raising recently as part of their Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust funded project entitled Targeted Action for Highly Threatened Species in the South Coast Region. Between March 25<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup>, they invited the South Coast community to participate in a Threatened Species Artwork Competition that included both original artworks and colouring in. There were over 260 entries from children and adults and 24 EPBC-listed species were featured including Gilbert’s Potoroo, the Noisy Scrub-bird and the Western Ground Parrot. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, South Coast NRM hosted an exhibition and awards night and we were delighted to see that the winner of the Under 6 years Original Artwork category, Taylor Aylmore, had chosen to draw a Gilbert’s Potoroo! You can read more about both the competition and the exhibition and awards night at the following South Coast NRM [Facebook post](#).



Above: The winning entry in the Original Artwork Under 6 years category “Gilbert’s Potoroo eats fungi” by Taylor Aylmore

For another deliverable of their Threatened Species project described above, South Coast NRM produced factsheets on Gilbert’s Potoroo, the Noisy Scrub-bird and the Western Ground Parrot each detailing the species’ status, location, threats and what is being done to help them.

southcoastnrm.com.au



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The Gilbert's Potoroo factsheet can be downloaded from the following link <https://tinyurl.com/yck8arzh>. We strongly encourage members and supporters to share the factsheet with family members, friends, colleagues, local schools, libraries or relevant community groups (or anywhere or anyone else you can think of) to help spread the word about Gilbert's Potoroo. [Back to page 1](#)

### **Threatened Species Bake Off**

With Threatened Species Day (September 7<sup>th</sup>) fast approaching, the annual Threatened Species Bake Off competition is imminent. This competition initiated by the Threatened Species Commissioner and now in its 9th year encourages people to make edible creations depicting a threatened species to raise awareness of both threatened plants and animals. There is a judging panel to choose a winner and also a Peoples' Choice Award based on voting on Facebook and Instagram. There is no prize awarded – just bragging rights! The theme this year is “A Pop of Colour” to highlight colourful or patterned threatened species so a design for a small, brown species like Gilbert's Potoroo would definitely require some creative thinking to make it fit the brief! See photos below for the amazing Gilbert's Potoroo entry by GPAG member Marnie Giroud in 2019. You can read more about the Threatened Species Bake Off at the following link



<https://www.dceew.gov.au/about/news/ready-set-bake-off-back-2025>.



Photos: Flashback to 2019 and the brilliant cake made for the 2019 Threatened Species Bake Off by GPAG member Marnie Giroud which tells a whole story of Gilbert's Potoroo – truffle diet, threats (predation and fire) etc. Still no idea why it didn't win! Cake and photos by Marnie Giroud.

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# 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.

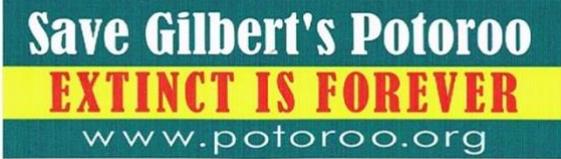


Printed by the Environmental Printing Company on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. Blank inside.  
\$5 each or 5 for \$20.

**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.



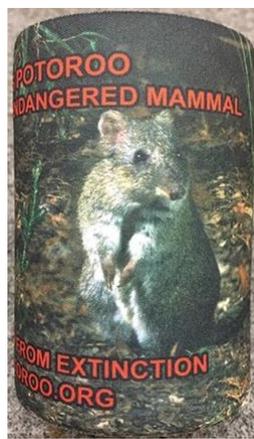
**BUMPER STICKERS:** FREE with other items



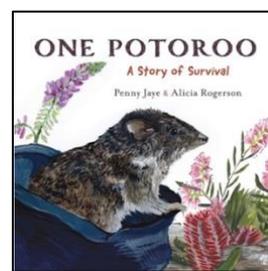
**POSTCARDS:** Featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker and information about the Potoroo on both the front and back  
FREE with other items



**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

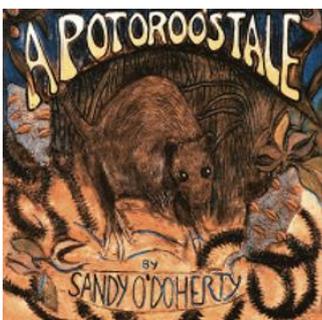


**STUBBY HOLDERS:** Designed by GPAG members featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker.  
\$10 each or 2 for \$15

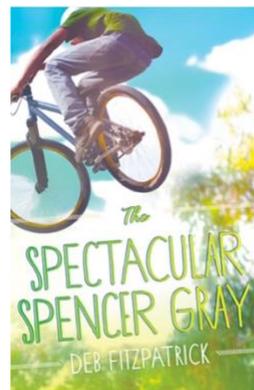


**ONE POTOROO: A STORY OF SURVIVAL:** A heart-warming story of disaster and rescue of one Potoroo

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.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY	Nominated By: _____	Receipt No _____
	Membership Accepted: YES/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