



Potoroo Postings

Issue # 2025/3



CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
CALENDAR	1
FROM THE CHAIR	2
RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATE	3
VOLUNTEERING	5
Camera servicing	5
All volunteers for field work with GPAG require a DBCA Dieback Green Card	5
FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS	6
Ongoing Fundraisers	6
"Protector of the Potoroo" by Carol Ann O'Connor	6
Containers for Change	7
Awareness Raising	7
Gilbert's Potoroo/Ngilkat Video series	7
New GPAG Brochures	8
Wildlife Ahead Podcast Episode 6	8
MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM	9

Happy New Year 2026



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.

December 7th, 2025 onwards (regular, ongoing): Soil and fungi surveys at Two Peoples Bay and Waychinicup Potoroo Enclosure. Email communications@potoroo.org with your potential availability or any questions if you are interested in volunteering.

March 3rd, 2026: World Wildlife Day

Thank you to all our members, donors, volunteers, supporters and social media followers for your support through 2025. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2026.

From the GPAG Team



Contact us: Email: mail@potoroo.org, Mail: PO Box 654, Albany, WA 6331

Visit us: www.potoroo.org

Follow us: @gilbertspotoroo @GilbertsPotorooActionGroup @gilbertspotoroo

FROM THE CHAIR

Potoroo Artistry

Our members and supporters are certainly a talented lot! As you will read in this issue, Committee Member and award-winning film-maker Javier Delgado Esteban has produced a series of short videos telling the story of the potoroo's rediscovery in 1994 and the subsequent work to prevent its extinction, as well as answering the important question of why it must be saved – its broad ecological importance. Javier is doing great work in promoting awareness of this critically endangered marsupial.

Carol Ann O'Connor, also featured in this issue, is a Denmark artist and gallery owner who has produced a remarkable painting featuring Gilbert's Potoroo, Two Peoples Bay and a symbolic "Protector of the Potoroo". She is generously donating \$25 to GPAG from every print sold. Carol's gallery, the Sisters of Eve studio in Denmark, is a treasure trove of artistic wonders – well worth a visit.

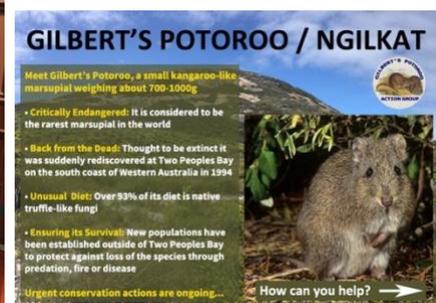
Another artist of note, our own Jackie Courtenay, has produced a new, updated brochure to replace our ageing stock of promotional materials. Look out for them at events around Albany and pass them on to friends and relatives.

Secretary

We are still badly in need of a Secretary to handle routine correspondence, membership matters and minutes of our infrequent meetings. If you can spare a few hours a month to help our cause, please let us know. You're welcome to phone me on 0412 003 414 to discuss.

Thanks

Alan



Above left: The thumbnail image used for the full length video (see story page 7). Above centre: Carol Ann O'Connor next to her "Protector of the Potoroo" painting (see story page 6). Above right: The front of the new GPAG brochures (see story page 8).

RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATE

By Tony Friend, Research Associate/Field Officer, DBCA

With the recovery of the fire-affected habitat in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, restoration of its important population of Ngilkaat/Gilbert's potoroo continued in 2025. As most animals recaptured recently in the reserve have been males, the sex ratio of potoroos to be released was purposely biased towards females. An overnight trip to Bald Island was organized to coincide with a helicopter survey for Australian sealions by DBCA scientists along the south coast, so the aircraft could also be used to transport potoroos to Two Peoples Bay. On 27th April, Tony Friend and GPAG member Dave Wettenhall were landed on Bald Island by DBCA boat skippers Tim Button and Vaughn Chapple crewing the DBCA Albany craft "Eclipse".

The trapping team set fifty cage traps that afternoon and next morning were happy to find nine captured potoroos to choose from. Three young females, two with small pouch young, were selected for transfer to the mainland in the afternoon. Camp was packed up before the helicopter arrived to carry the team and potoroos to Two Peoples Bay. There the potoroos were fitted with transmitters and GPS loggers, purchased with funding from GPAG, before their release in the evening in the Firebreak Valley potoroo hotspot. As usual, the tracking equipment was taped at the base of the tail of each potoroo with elastic adhesive tape, to be dropped after 4-6 weeks when the adhesive quality of the tape failed. Radio-tracking by DBCA officers Abby Berryman, Larisse Guislain and Moses Pillay three days a week until this happened showed us in real time where the potoroos settled down.



The Albany-based DBCA vessel "Eclipse" on Cheyne Beach before launching to transport Tony Friend (DBCA) and GPAG member Dave Wettenhall to Bald Island. Photo: David Wettenhall



Tony and Dave headed out to set cage traps for potoroos after establishing camp on Bald Island. Traps are baited with a mixture of peanut butter, rolled oats and pistachio nut flavour. Photo: David Wettenhall



A late afternoon view of Mermaid Point and Mount Manypeaks from Bald Island, as the team returned to camp after setting 50 cage traps for potoroos in the southern half of the island. Photo: Tony Friend (DBCA)



Above: Tony checking a trap early in the morning. As well as potoroos, quokkas, King's skinks and a great-winged petrel were found in the traps. Photo: David Wettenhall



Left: Basic measurements and other observations including sex, reproductive state and body condition were recorded for each potoroo caught. The teeth were examined in detail, using the sequence of tooth emergence and degree of tooth wear to check the age of the individual, so younger animals could be selected for translocation. Photo: David Wettenhall



Above: This twin-engine Airbus AS355F2 (Squirrel) helicopter operated by Corsaire Aviation landed on Bald Island to pick up the trapping team and potoroos for transport to the mainland at Two Peoples Bay. Photo: David Wettenhall



The transfer of potoroos from the helicopter, fitting of tracking equipment and release of the three Bald Island potoroos at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve were carried out by DBCA staff Tony Friend, Deon Utber and Abby Berryman and GPAG volunteer Dave Wettenhall. Photo: Abby Berryman (DBCA)

On 13th May, two females were captured in the Waychinicup National Park enclosure and transported by 4WD to Two Peoples Bay, fitted with tracking equipment and released there in the late afternoon. One male potoroo followed them the next day and all three were also monitored by radio-tracking and GPS logging.

Unfortunately, one young female from Bald Island was taken by a native carpet python about a week after her release. The other five GPS loggers were later found on the ground where the packages were dropped. Data downloaded from the GPS units showed that three potoroos had moved well away from their release sites but two had remained in Firebreak Valley: both have been recaptured in recent months. The most exciting find was another tiny pouch young carried by one of the Bald Island females, trapped during Western Shield monitoring by DBCA operations officer Tim Button. Monitoring efforts will now concentrate on locating the other three potoroos and any new young ones.

Our ability to restock Two Peoples Bay is due to the previous establishment of “insurance” populations on Bald Island and in the Waychinicup enclosure. The ongoing value of these two colonies depends on up-to-date information about their size and condition. Good results from a partial census of the Waychinicup enclosure in 2024 supported the removal of three potoroos in 2025. A trapping program in the enclosure in September and October has provided the more complete picture of population health needed to decide on the size of the next transfer of potoroos to Two Peoples Bay, proposed for 2026. The results of this recent potoroo census at Waychinicup will be reported in the next newsletter.



Left: View of one of the insurance populations on the way back from another one! The eastern end of Norman’s Beach seen from the helicopter on its way from Bald Island to Two Peoples Bay. The perimeter fence of the potoroo enclosure in Waychinicup National Park can be seen in the top left-hand corner of the image. Photo: David Wettenhall

The translocations of potoroos and the monitoring program are both funded by the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program through South Coast NRM.

VOLUNTEERING

Camera servicing

The latest round of camera servicing was carried out on September 22nd, 2025, in beautiful weather with the assistance of GPAG volunteers David Wettenhall and Deanne Aylmore. The volunteers were accompanied by Technical Officers Larisse Guislain, Moses Pillay and Carly Watson. It was Moses's first foray into Two Peoples Bay camera servicing and he was very ably assisted by David, who by now is intimate with most camera locations on the headland! Unfortunately, due to a last-minute work schedule conflict, the Southern Aboriginal Corporation rangers were unable to join the team in the field this time.



Moses Pillay (left) and David Wettenhall at work camera servicing. Photo provided by DBCA



GPAG volunteers David Wettenhall (above left and centre) and Deanne Aylmore (above right) servicing cameras. Different postures are required (or chosen!) for servicing each camera! Photos provided by DBCA

Twenty-five out of the thirty cameras were serviced on the day. The outstanding five cameras were to be serviced by staff while carrying out other duties in the park. Some Quokka damage to the camera GPAG14 was reported. There have been no issues with image quality and the camera was placed in a protective lock box to prevent further damage. A camera that GPAG had paid to have the case repaired following previous Quokka damage was also redeployed.

Overall DBCA report that it was a wonderfully routine service (unlike some previous services as reported in Potoroo Postings #2022/3 and #2023/2 with severely damaged cameras from selfie-hating Quokkas), and they thank the volunteers for all their assistance.

[Back to page 1](#)

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 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. [Back to page 1](#)

FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Ongoing Fundraisers

“Protector of the Potoroo” by Carol Ann O’Connor

In late November 2024 a chance visit to Carol Ann O'Connor's Sisters of Eve Art Gallery in Denmark by GPAG Chair, Alan Needham, and his wife Elizabeth, resulted in a conversation about Gilbert’s Potoroo that inspired this gorgeous painting. "Protector of the Potoroo" was then chosen as the feature painting for the 2025 Southern Art and Craft Trail. It is an exquisite painting, embellished with gemstones and full of hidden detail with something new revealing itself each time you look at it. This is also such a beautiful next chapter after Carol Ann was the artist who painted the iconic Noisy Scrub-bird painting that was presented to HRH Prince Philip in 1990 to commemorate his contribution to saving Two Peoples Bay from development in the 1960s. The protection of Two Peoples Bay as a Nature Reserve led indirectly to the protection of Gilbert’s Potoroo to enable it to build up in numbers enough to be rediscovered in 1994, after not being recorded for 120 years and thought extinct for nearly 90 years.

Carol Ann is generously donating \$25 to GPAG from every print of her painting sold to help support our work and has already donated \$425 raised from sales around the time of the Art and Craft Trail in October. An embellished print of this beautiful painting will be on display at the Denmark Environment Centre from early January and prints can be purchased from the Sisters of Eve Art Gallery. A huge thank you to Carol Ann for using her talent and generosity to help raise awareness and support GPAG and Gilbert’s Potoroo, and to everyone who purchased (or will purchase) a print!



Above from left: The “Protector of the Potoroo” painting on the cover of the Southern Art + Craft Trail 2025 booklet, Carol Ann O’Connor next to her painting at the launch of the Art + Craft Trail, Close up of the Potoroo on its embellished cushion cradled by the hands of the Protector, Close up of part of the Protector’s dress showing fungi representing the diet of the Gilbert’s Potoroo and some of the medallions illustrating plants, Two Peoples Bay scenery and a Noisy Scrub -bird. Photos: Leigh Whisson

Containers for Change

GPAG Member #: C10289767

Containers for Change is continuing to tick over as a slow but steady source of donations for GPAG. With all the parties and family gatherings during the holiday season we encourage people to consider saving and recycling suitable drink containers from parties and celebrations through Containers for Change to minimise the impact on landfill and, if you feel so inclined, to donate the refund to GPAG!

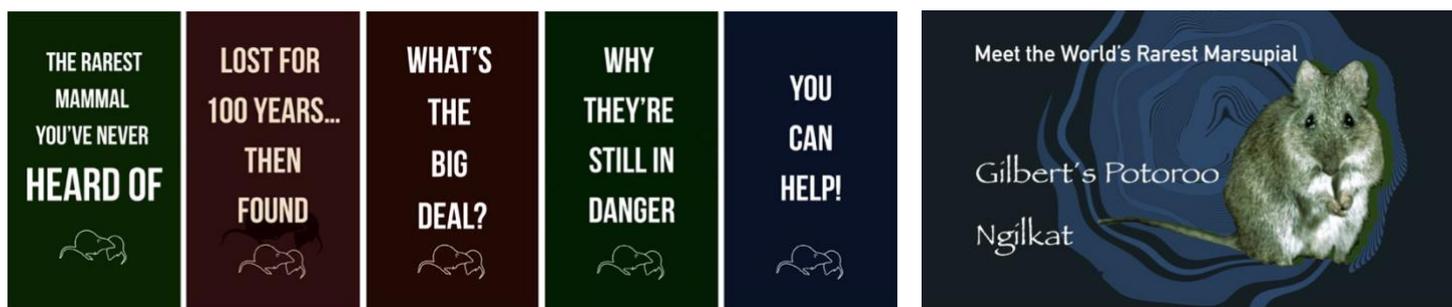


From August 1st to December 31st 2025, generous supporters donated \$387.40 in refunds from their drink containers returned for recycling. That's a fantastic 3874 drink containers recycled from 20 individual donations – a much appreciated donation to GPAG but also a lot of plastic, aluminium, glass and 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

As part of an exciting integrated awareness raising campaign, GPAG have recently developed a video series and new postcard style brochures to replace our outdated trifold brochures. The video series and brochures were funded by the Australian Government through South Coast NRM, a member of the Regional Delivery Partners Panel, with additional funding for the videos from Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.

Gilbert's Potoroo/Ngilkat Video series



Above: The title pages of the five chapters of the video series (left) and the cover image used in advertising the full-length video (right).

The video series, filmed and produced by Javier Delgado Esteban from SpaceWhale Studio, including the composition of original music scores, consists of 5 chapters that can be viewed as stand-alone short videos each running for about 30 seconds or as a single 3-minute video that combines all the chapters. Each chapter addresses a key fact about Gilbert's Potoroo history and ecology beginning with an introduction to the world's rarest marsupial that most people have never heard of, followed by chapters on the species' presumed extinction and exciting rediscovery, its ecological role as a specialist native truffle-eater and ecosystem engineer, and the threats it faces. The fifth chapter is a more detailed call to action encouraging people to get involved and help GPAG in its efforts to help save Gilbert's Potoroo/Ngilkat in

partnership with South Coast NRM and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The video production required a huge effort from Javier, who is also a GPAG Committee member, and we are very grateful to him for his dedication to completing the work under very difficult circumstances. The videos can be viewed on GPAG's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@PotorooOrg>.

New GPAG Brochures



The front (far left) and back (left) of the new GPAG brochures. Image credits: Potoroo photo - Jiri Lochman, Potoroo cartoon - Marnie Giroud, Two Peoples Bay photos - Leigh Whisson, Design - Jackie Courtenay

The second part of the awareness campaign also funded through South Coast NRM as noted above is the replacement of GPAG's old trifold brochures. The old brochures had served us well but, having been created in 2012 before the catastrophic Two Peoples Bay fire and subsequent creation of the Middle Island population, they had become very out of date. We decided to produce postcard style brochures that would be more robust for display and would only include factual information about the Potoroos that would not date (or at least not too quickly – it will be nice when its Critically Endangered status becomes out of date!). The front of the brochures lists 4 key facts and a call to action that mirror the 5 chapters of the video series. A QR code linking to the website on the back will enable people to access up-to-date information. While the front focuses on the key facts, the back focuses on how people can help through participating in GPAG's three key objectives of fundraising, awareness raising and volunteering (including encouragement to join the group). If anyone would like to help distribute the brochures to their family, friends and colleagues or to display some at their workplace, school, local library or wherever else they feel is appropriate, please contact us on communications@potoroo.org and we will post some out to you.

Wildlife Ahead Podcast Episode 6

On October 22nd GPAG's Deputy Chairperson, Leigh Whisson, and Communications Co-ordinator, Jackie Courtenay, were interviewed by James Worsfold and Elysee Lee for a Wildlife Ahead Podcast entitled "This marsupial was thought to be extinct for over 100 years". Fortunately they were planning to be in Albany while Tony Friend was undertaking trapping at the Waychincup Enclosure so they were able to both interview him for the piece as well as participate in some trapping and see a Potoroo! A more detailed piece and a link to the podcast will be included in the next newsletter.



Above: Podcasters Elysee Lee (left) and James Worsfold (right) at Two Peoples Bay

[Back to page 1](#)

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 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: _____ 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.

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

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