



Potoroo Postings

Issue # 2022/3



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| CALENDAR | 1 |
| FROM THE CHAIR | 2 |
| ENVIRONMENT RESTORATION FUND PROJECT | 3 |
| VOLUNTEERING | 4 |
| The Zooniverse Project is LIVE!! | 4 |
| Camera Traps and the Quokka who Hated Selfies | 5 |
| Volunteers Require DBCA Dieback Green Card | 6 |
| FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS | 7 |
| Current and Recent Fundraisers | 7 |
| Australian Geographic Fundraiser | 7 |
| "Chopping my Locks for Gilbert's Potoroo" | 7 |
| Ongoing Fundraisers | 10 |
| Containers for Change | 10 |
| Awareness Raising | 10 |
| South Coast NRM Threatened Species Art Event | 10 |
| A&SFCWG Threatened Species Event at Manypeaks | 11 |
| Australian Mammal of the Year Competition | 11 |
| GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS | 12 |
| State NRM Genetics Study – Stem Outreach Event | 12 |
| 2022 State NRM Large Grants Announced | 14 |
| MERCHANDISE | 15 |
| MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM | 16 |
| MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM | 17 |

CALENDAR

NOTE: All volunteers undertaking field work with GPAG require a DBCA Dieback Green Card. See details on page 6

Members will be emailed with more details on upcoming events & volunteering opportunities as dates etc firm up.

November 1-December 27: Australian Geographic fundraiser for Gilbert's Potoroo. See details on p. 7

November 23, 6:30-9:00pm: "Cats on Candid Camera" Event at Albany Library to launch the Zooniverse Project. Bookings open soon at <https://www.trybooking.com/CEEHA>

November 23-24: Servicing motion sensing cameras at Two Peoples Bay. See p. 6 for further information if you wish to volunteer.

December 1: Online launch of a Gilbert's Potoroo poster by Katharine Rocksein in collaboration with Gillamii & South Coast NRM to celebrate Gilbert's Potoroo Day

STOP PRESS



Cats on Candid Camera

Introducing DBCA's

South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project

Free Event: Albany Library, Wednesday November 23 2022, 6:30-9:00pm



Bookings are now open at <https://www.trybooking.com/CEEHA> for the launch of DBCA's South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project to be held at Albany Library on November 23, 6:30-9:00pm. Come along to hear presentations about the Zooniverse project from DBCA scientists, volunteering opportunities from GPAG and Friends of the Western Ground Parrot and about what the Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group are doing to help raise awareness of the threats of feral and roaming pet cats on native wildlife. The talks will be followed by supper and an informal workshop on how you can participate in the project by helping identify the animals (both native and feral predators) in the images to assist DBCA in threatened species monitoring and feral predator management. Hope to see you there!!



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

Protecting Potoroos through Fundraising, Volunteering and Raising Awareness!

As you will read in this issue, a great deal has happened since the last newsletter and there is much planned for the near future.

First, congratulations to Shelley Foster who single-handedly raised \$4,150 for Potoroo conservation by cutting off her 50cm – length hair and donating it to make wigs for people who need them. Thank you to all who donated to benefit these two great causes.

Our success in obtaining a \$260,000 State Natural Resources Management grant will allow us to fund, over the next two years, environmental DNA studies with the aim of finding suitable sites for future Potoroo translocations, and tapping into Indigenous knowledge of the Potoroo and its history. Jackie Courtenay worked hard on our behalf to obtain this grant, and her success is due in no small part to the excellent way in which she has managed previous State NRM grants.

If you have never volunteered for a Zooniverse project before, now is the time. About 43,000 sets of images from cameras stationed in Potoroo habitat and elsewhere on the south coast went online on 1st November and all need to be analysed and the animals they captured need to be identified. Some will show Potoroos and many will not, but it is vitally important that we identify the animals that are living in those locations as well as help monitor the presence of cats and foxes which are a major threat to native wildlife. This can be very enjoyable and educative. A few years ago, I learned a great deal about the wildlife of the French Alps and the Great Lakes area of North America by volunteering for Zooniverse. There is an on-line tutorial and plenty of identification guides to help you with difficult decisions (e.g. was it a Potoroo, a Quenda or a small Quokka?) and I promise you that you will come away with a much broader knowledge of the wildlife of the south-west. The link to the Zooniverse project is given on page 4 and the registration link is in the top righthand corner of the project home page.

As you will also see in this issue with numerous mentions of articles and interviews throughout the newsletter, media interest in Gilbert's Potoroo is steadily increasing. This doesn't happen spontaneously – it is the result of all our effort to raise public awareness, to promptly respond to media requests and to supply them quickly with appropriate and attractive publicity materials. GPAG has an experienced and effective team doing all these things, and it's all important to the survival of the Potoroo.

Alan

The pictures below are from the DBCA/Zooniverse project & show the sort of images you can expect to see.



UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENT RESTORATION FUND PROJECT

This project is supported by funding through the Australian Government and is being delivered by the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc in partnership with the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Work on the Environment Restoration Fund project is now progressing quickly with the new camera traps and Felixer grooming traps deployed and searches for South-west Carpet Pythons underway. The 15 new motion sensing cameras funded by this project (to expand the existing array of 15 cameras funded through our 2019 State NRM grant) were deployed by DBCA on September 1 with help from GPAG volunteers Kathryn Greenop and David Wettenhall. These cameras will be an important extra surveillance tool to monitor feral predators on Mt Gardner. Images from these cameras will be uploaded to the recently launched Zooniverse project (see page 4-5) which enables volunteers from all over the world to be involved in analysing the photos and thus contributing to this important work to help Gilbert's Potoroo.

Photos: David Wettenhall (above right by Carly Watson) and Kathryn Greenop (right by Mark Blythman) checking the existing cameras and preparing to deploy the new camera array at Two Peoples Bay

Update on South-west Carpet Python management by Saul Cowen, Research Scientist DBCA

To support the planned return of Gilbert's Potoroo to Two Peoples Bay, additional work has been underway to mitigate one of potoroo's natural predators, the South-west Carpet Python. However, pythons can be tricky to find, especially in the cooler months, so this is presenting quite a challenge to those involved. After several unsuccessful attempts, GPAG's Leigh Whisson joined Alan Danks and Saul Cowen for a search on September 15 and was responsible for spotting an adult female which was certainly large enough to present a threat to a newly translocated potoroo.

Alan and Saul relocated the python to a secure area of suitable habitat 13km away, where it can hunt prey other than potoroos. Leigh also assisted Alan with a search on September 16 which was unsuccessful in locating any additional pythons and other subsequent searches at Two Peoples Bay have so far also proved unsuccessful but as the weather starts to warm up, extra effort will be put in to try and reduce the pressure on the potoroos when they are reintroduced to settle into life back on Mt Gardner.



Above: The female Southern Carpet Python spotted by Leigh Whisson and captured and removed from Two Peoples Bay by Saul Cowen and Alan Danks on September 15. Photo: Saul Cowan, DBCA

Update on Felixer Grooming Traps by Sarah Comer, South Coast Regional Ecologist, DBCA

Felixer grooming traps are being trialled around the country as another tool that has potential to support the management of feral cats. The Felixer units use rangefinder sensors to distinguish target feral cats and foxes from non-target wildlife (including humans). Only the target animals are sprayed with a measured dose of 1080 in a gel, and the images of the animals are recorded as they are fired on. Trials of these units have been conducted on the south coast already, as we needed to make sure that native species like Quokka and Quenda were not mistaken as targets. The trials demonstrated that the units were reliable in just identifying foxes and cats as targets. The Felixers, funded through the GPAG ERF project, will be used to complement other introduced predator management activities (such as baiting and trapping) on Mt Gardner. Three Felixer units were deployed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) at the beginning of October. It is hoped that this multipronged approach to feral cat and fox management will give any reintroduced potoroos the best chance of settling into their new homes.



Above: A 1080 Poison Risk sign giving a strong warning to stay well away from the Felixer grooming trap (the large green box) deployed in the background. Photo by Sarah Comer, DBCA

VOLUNTEERING

[Back to page 1](#)

The Zooniverse Project is LIVE!!



Great news!!! After a huge amount of work by DBCA Albany Parks and Wildlife staff, especially Abby Thomas and Sarah Comer, pulling it all together, the South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project on Zooniverse is now LIVE featuring images from camera traps at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Waychinicup National Park! Already well over 7000 volunteers have been busily working away and have identified over 53,000 images!! It is a fantastic citizen science project that enables people from all over the

world to help with the important camera image identification work that will directly contribute to the conservation and management of the Critically Endangered Gilbert's Potoroo as well as a number of threatened south coast birds such as the Western Ground Parrot and Noisy Scrub-bird.

You can visit the project at the following link <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/abbsta/south-coast-threatened-fauna-recovery-project> or by clicking on the banner image on the previous page. Have a browse around and see how you go identifying some animals!!

GPAG are very proud to be partnering with & helping DBCA with this project which (among many others) includes images from camera traps funded through our 2019 State NRM Community Stewardship Large grant to help DBCA monitor feral predators at Two Peoples Bay (& hopefully spot some Gilbert's Potoroos as well!!). Other partners in the project include Friends of the Western Ground Parrot and Birdlife Australia. As well as participating in identifying images, three of our Committee members – Alan Needham, Leigh Whisson and Jackie Courtenay - are also volunteer Moderators on the project to help Abby and Sarah to manage the questions about identifications.

GPAG are planning a launch event “Cats on Candid Camera” for community members at the Albany Library on November 23 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm so people can learn more about the Zooniverse project and the current work and volunteering opportunities with Gilbert's Potoroo and the Western Ground Parrot. There will also be an opportunity for interested people to get help setting up their Zooniverse account and/or asking questions about identifications etc. Bookings for this event will be opening very soon at the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/CEEHA>. The event is free but bookings are essential due to venue size limitations and for catering purposes.

[Back to page 1](#)

Camera Trap Servicing and the Quokka who Hated Selfies

In the last newsletter we reported on the May camera trap servicing but what we didn't mention was that one of the cameras was found with its back open, the edges of the camera chewed and the batteries on the ground around the camera! Obviously something had attacked the camera to open it up like that – but what?? At the time it was thought that the camera was still functional and the batteries and SD card were replaced and the camera reset for another 3 months of image recording.

However, when the cameras were serviced again on August 31 by DBCA staff with the help of GPAG volunteers, David Wettenhall and Kathryn Greenop, it was found that water had leaked into the camera and rusted the batteries, so obviously the camera needed some repairs.



Top and above right: The damaged camera in the field at Two Peoples Bay. Photos by Kathryn Greenop. Above left: Closer view of the rusted batteries back in the office. Photo by Mark Blythman, DBCA.

Who or what could have caused such damage? On checking the images on the SD card from May, the culprit was unmasked – a Quokka!!!

We are sure most people will have heard of the famous smiling Quokkas on Rottnest Island, including their reputation for posing in selfies with some very famous people such as tennis great Roger Federer. But apparently, at least this one mainland Quokka was not so keen on having its picture snapped and decided to destroy the camera!



A series of pictures taken by the camera over a 3 month period analysed by DBCA staff (not part of the Zooniverse project discussed above) show a Quokka first chewing on the lure post and then getting closer and closer to the camera until the final grab on April 7 - which from the damage was apparently followed by having a chew on the edge of the camera case, prising open the back and scattering the batteries on the ground. There is no way of knowing if it really was the same Quokka that started in January with chewing the lure post and ended in April with chewing the camera but it certainly suggests that despite their happy smiles, not all Quokkas are happy with being co-opted into selfies!!



All camera images of the Quokka supplied by DBCA

The next camera servicing is scheduled for November 23 and 24. Email mail@potoroo.org for further information if you are interested in volunteering.

[Back to page 1](#)

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT VOLUNTEERING

All volunteers for field work require a DBCA Dieback Green Card

With the new State NRM Grant surveying for fungi and collecting soil samples and seeds over the next two years getting started soon, this is just a reminder that if you wish to volunteer with GPAG on these 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 if you want to undertake the training and she will email you the training materials.

[Back to page 1](#)

FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Current and Recent Fundraisers

Australian Geographic Fundraiser

We are very excited that Australian Geographic are holding a fundraiser for Gilbert's Potoroo during the months of November and December (with Gilbert's Potoroo Day on December 1 right in the middle!) and will hopefully not only raise some funds but also raise a lot of awareness about the plight of the Potoroos to a wider audience. The fundraiser was opened on November 1 and is being advertised in the November issue of the Australian Geographic Magazine, on social media and in QBD bookstores throughout Australia. Donations can be made at the following link <https://www.givenow.com.au/gilberts-potoroo>. Thanks to all the people at Australian Geographic, Jennene Riggs from Riggs Australia and Jiri Lochman for their support in getting this fundraiser happening.

Help save the Gilbert's potoroo from extinction

By AG STAFF • October 31, 2022



A Gilbert's potoroo (Potorous gilbertii). Image credit: Dick Walker/GPAG

🕒 Reading Time: < 1 • 🖨️ Print this page

Help us help the Gilbert's potoroo. Make a tax deductible donation today.

[Back to page 1](#)

"Chopping my Locks for Gilbert's Potoroo"

"Because what is the actual point of a world without Potoroos" Vinith Menezes

On September 1, GPAG received an unexpected message on Facebook from a WA local, Shelley Foster, wanting to chop off her hair to help save Gilbert's Potoroo – whaattt? Of course, we were delighted and we did what we could to help get the word out there for what ended up being a punchy and wildly successful campaign –in the end Shelley raised \$4150 with most of that coming in the first month! It was amazing! The quote above, left on Shelley's fundraising page by one of her donors, Vinith Menezes, totally sums up both her passion and ours for saving this precious animal.

The story (below) is a shortened version of a blog post about the experience which Shelley has kindly written for us. The full blog will be posted on the website shortly.

"Chopping my Locks for Gilbert's Potoroo" by Shelley Foster

I learnt of Gilbert's Potoroo about six years back and became very intrigued by it. I couldn't believe that WA is (woefully) home to Australia's *most endangered* mammal and most people don't even know about it! Like me several years prior, most people I've spoken to have never even heard about this creature, let alone know of its extreme vulnerability, so I felt compelled to raise awareness about it.

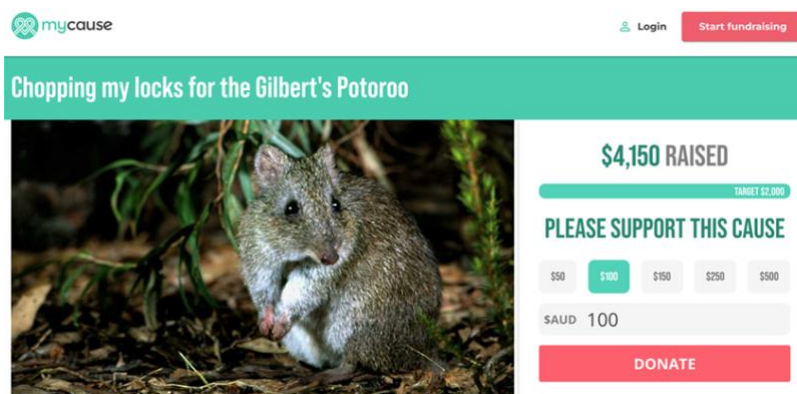


Whenever I'm travelling through regional Australia, I look at the forested or bushy land next to the cleared land, and a patchy shave job always comes to mind. Somehow this thought evolved into the idea of chopping my locks for conservation and habitat protection.

I have always had long hair and while the idea of a shaved head terrified me, I've always been very curious about how it would feel. So I thought, what the heck, why not do something a bit scary and raise some funds and awareness for conservation at the same time?

The double bonus was that with such long hair, it was perfect for donating to Sustainable Salons, where they craft quality wigs for those in need.

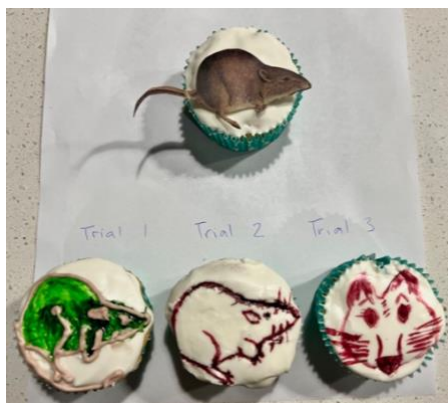
In late August I suddenly made the call that September would be a perfect time to run a short campaign amongst my friends and family. September also aligned well with National Threatened Species Month and the Threatened Species Bake-Off.



So after talking to Jackie at GPAG, I made a MyCause page and started letting my friends and family know. Once the first few donations came rolling in I knew there was no 'backsies' in changing my mind! All my friends, family and colleagues were so generous and supportive and within a week, I had reached my initial target of \$2000!

At the end of September, I was with my family in Geraldton and organised to get my favourite local hairdresser, Lisa at Creative Hairwork, to prepare and cut my hair for donation, and then shave the hair that remained.

The days leading up to The Big Chop were daunting. I haven't had short hair since I was a baby and had no idea how it would look or feel. On the big day, my legendary family and boyfriend got to work baking Gilbert's Potoroo cupcakes and a cake. This wasn't an easy feat! Some of our Gilbert's Potoroo attempts had more of a rat- or wolf-like appearance and it took some debate to get it just right (or close enough). With a delicious choc-coconut cake and tray of cupcakes in tow, we all headed to Creative Hairwork.



Photos above: Shelley with her family and their amazing Potoroo cake creations. All photos supplied by Shelley Foster.

My hair was washed, blow-dried and braided as per the instructions in the Sustainable Salons ponytail donation toolkit. By this point I was pretty nervous and my heart rate got up to 134 bpm!



Far Left: Hair washed & ready for braiding. Left: All braided up & looking a bit nervous before the big chop! Below top: The last braid being chopped – check out the mullet!! Below bottom: Before and after. All photos provided by Shelley Foster.

The moment finally came when Lisa brought out the scissors. I held my breath as she started hacking away at the first and largest braid. Then the whole situation became quite fun and comical. One by one, the five braids were chopped and I was left with a solid mullet that in 2022 is now back in fashion! Then the shaver came out and Lisa cleaned up all the loose bits to a 'number 6'. My audience of friends and family all concurred that this was a good length to stop and then all proceeded to come and scruff my head in awe.

I was so amazed by the feeling of a shaved head. Weirdly, with my hair being so dense, it felt as though I was wearing a tight helmet. From being fairly golden at the tips, my short hair was now this interesting 'ash blond' colour. I looked in the mirror and saw a stranger, which was strangely liberating.

And now, 6 weeks on?

Six weeks on from shaving my head, I have finally gotten used to this new look. My hair is growing back slowly, with no signs yet of going flatter – maybe an afro is on the cards? I have also worked out that with short hair, I'm saving approximately:

- 56 hours per year in washing and brushing time
- 14 kL of water per year – that's more than one large wheelie bin per week! and..
- 523 kWh of energy (heating shower water) per year – this is equivalent to 900 km driven in an average passenger car!!



Overall, I have been blown away by everybody's generosity to such a worthy cause. I hope one day that Gilbert's Potoroos will be bountiful once more, and our grandkids can share the story of how it was saved from the brink of extinction by the efforts of many passionate conservationists.

Final note from GPAG: Gilbert's Potoroo's original habitat at Two Peoples Bay was catastrophically burnt in a bushfire in 2015 leaving only a handful of survivors. DBCA are currently planning a translocation

operation to return Potoroos to their former home with funding from the Australian Government through South Coast NRM and GPAG. The funds raised from Shelley's campaign (\$4,150 in total), will go towards purchasing GPS transmitters to support intensive monitoring following this reintroduction. A big thanks to Shelley and her network for raising awareness and funds for Gilbert's Potoroo in such a novel and courageous way. Stay tuned for updates on the planned Two Peoples Bay translocation. [Back to page 1](#)

Ongoing Fundraisers

Containers for Change

GPAG Member #: C10289767

Since our last newsletter in mid-July generous supporters have donated \$308.10 in refunds from their drink containers returned for recycling. That's an extraordinary 3081 drink containers – a great donation to GPAG but also a lot of plastic, aluminium, glass and cardboard saved from landfill!! These donations included two really big ones - \$64.20 in September in Albany and \$68.60 in October in Bunbury. It is of course very exciting to get big donations like these two but every donation that comes through, however small, is much appreciated and they all add up to help us keep doing what we do to help Gilbert's Potoroo!



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 NRM Threatened Species Art Competition

On September 16, South Coast NRM held a Threatened Species Evening and Art Exhibition at the Retravisson Stadium at Centennial Park in Albany. The event included several speakers from DBCA talking about various threatened species and ecological communities, as well as an exhibition of the entries into South Coast NRM's recently completed art and colouring competition which were of an amazing standard of skill and creativity. GPAG had a small information and merchandise stall including some items to purchase and other "give aways" such as posters, bumper stickers and postcards. We had also contributed some prizes to the prize packs for the colouring competitions. Tony Friend from DBCA gave a talk about Gilbert's Potoroo but also presented the prizes to the winners of the various age groups for the colouring competition on behalf of GPAG while we were busy with our stall (thank you Tony for your help with this).



Above: This beautiful colouring of Gilbert's Potoroo by Molly Vega (11) was runner up in the 9-12 age group. Photo by Leigh Whisson

Congratulations to Bronte Van Helden and Hannah Bannister for organising such an enjoyable event. You can read the full report of the event and see the artwork by the winners and runners up on the South Coast NRM website at the following link <https://southcoastnrm.com.au/2022/10/threatened-species-evening-art-exhibition/>. [Back to page 1](#)

A&SFCWG Giving Our Threatened Species A Chance Event

On September 18, GPAG participated in a workshop hosted by Jenni Loveland for the Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group entitled "Giving Our Threatened Species A Chance". The event was held at the Manypeaks Town Hall to a full house of both Manypeaks locals and people from further afield. GPAG had a small information and merchandise stall where we sold some GPAG merchandise.

Jackie Courtenay gave a presentation about Gilbert's Potoroo entitled "Neither heard nor seen – with only about 100 individuals left, what is being done to save Gilbert's Potoroo?" which discussed some of the challenges of raising awareness of a species that is so rare it is highly unlikely to be seen in the wild, and doesn't do well in captivity so people have no chance of seeing it in a zoo, and how community engagement can be encouraged. Despite these challenges there are a lot of opportunities for people to help through



Above: Event organiser Jenni Loveland introducing Jackie Courtenay for her presentation about Gilbert's Potoroo.

volunteering (whether that involves seeing Potoroos or helping with other important activities such as camera servicing and image analysis), fundraising and helping to spread the word about this beautiful species. With Shelley Foster's Chopping my Locks fundraiser, the recent launch of the Zooniverse project and the stories about GPAG volunteers servicing the camera traps, this newsletter shows the many ways that people can help save Gilbert's Potoroo. The attendees were Welcomed to Country by Lester Coyne and other speakers included Sarah Comer, Anne Bondin, Hannah Bannister and Paul Wettin.

Congratulations to Jenni Loveland for organising such a terrific event.

[Back to page 1](#)

Australian Mammal of the Year Competition – Gilbert's Potoroo came 5th!!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the inaugural Australian Mammal of the Year competition was held through July and August with the final winner announced on August 9. We managed to get Gilbert's Potoroo into the final 10 and then through the first five elimination rounds but it was eventually beaten into 5th place by the Rikali (Australian Water Rat), Mountain Pygmy Possum, Dingo and, the eventual winner, the Critically Endangered Southern Bent-winged Bat.



While we were a little disappointed that it didn't make it further through the elimination rounds (and didn't win...) we were also delighted that we managed to keep it in the competition as long as we did with many people encouraging their friends and family to vote and people switching to voting for Gilbert's Potoroo when their preferred species was eliminated. It actually ended up being quite exciting watching the elimination announcement every day and seeing if Gilbert's Potoroo had made it through and, when it had, increasing our efforts to encourage people to vote for it to keep it in the race.

The Gilbert's Potoroo profile that Jackie Courtenay submitted is still available on the Cosmos Magazine website at the following link <https://cosmosmagazine.com/nature/amoty/gilberts-potoroo-back-from-dead/> and a further article on "How to Save a Threatened Species" which features Gilbert's Potoroo and interviewed both Tony Friend and Jackie Courtenay was published as a follow up article to the competition on October 7. It is available at the following link <https://cosmosmagazine.com/weekly-edition/how-we-save-a-threatened-species/>. And finally, one of the Australian Mammal of the Year competition organisers Professor Euan Ritchie published a summary article about the competition and the finalists in Issue 96 of the print version of Cosmos Magazine. The article is not available online, but back issues of the magazine can be purchased through the Cosmos website shop <https://cosmosmagazine.com/shop/category/issues/>. So even though Gilbert's Potoroo didn't win, it was a fantastic awareness raising opportunity - and there's always next year to try again!!

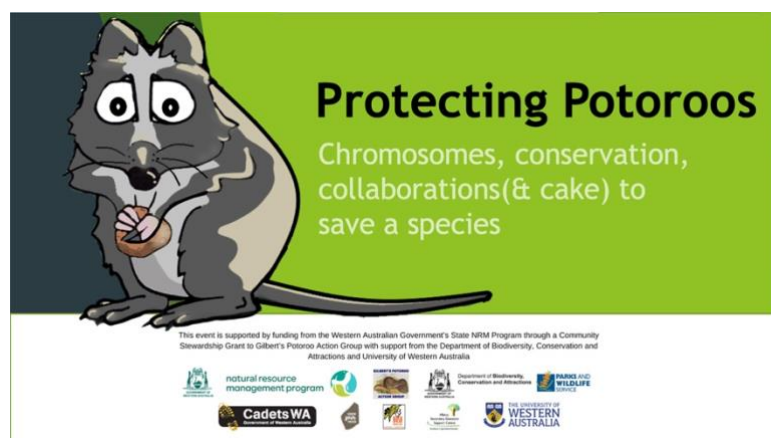


Above: An example of one of the social media images that we posted daily during the elimination rounds to try to encourage people to vote for Gilbert's Potoroo

[Back to page 1](#)

GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS

State NRM Funded Population Genetics Study – Stem Outreach Event



On September 8 we met our last Milestone for our 2019 State NRM Small Grant by delivering a STEM Outreach event "Protecting Potoroos" to three DBCA Bushrangers groups (years 9-11) and the Southern Aboriginal



Most of the attendees at the Protecting Potoroos event (minus a small number who had to leave early). Photo by Leigh Whisson. Photos of young people throughout this section are included with parental permission.

Corporation rangers. The University of Western Australia (UWA) generously allowed us to use their function room at no charge.

Associate Professor Parwinder Kaur from UWA and DNA Zoo Australia and Dr Kym Ottewell from DBCA flew down from Perth to Albany for the day and one of the school groups drove all the way from Katanning to attend the event. DBCA Programs Manager – Environmental Education (and GPAG member) Marnie Giroud helped facilitate the schools' attendance, designed the Protecting Potoroos stickers and table numbers and put in a huge amount of work on the day helping to keep the event running smoothly. Local Minang Elder Vernice Gillies gave the Welcome to Country followed by a fascinating talk on Noongar conservation and environmental management including traditional farming methods. Parwinder and Kym then both gave passionate and engaging talks about their work on work on the Potoroo genome and Potoroo population genetics respectively and how genetics work can aid threatened species management. The results of their projects were reported in previous Newsletters 2022#2 and 2021#3.



Above left: Full venue for the Protecting Potoroos STEM Outreach event at the Function room at University of Western Australia in Albany. Above right: The three speakers – Minang Elder Vernice Gillies, Associate Professor Parwinder Kaur from UWA & DNA Zoo & Kym Ottewell from DBCA all talking passionately about threatened species & how to protect them. Photos by Marnie Giroud.

The three talks were followed by a “pub quiz” style 10 question quiz which was eventually won by the students from North Albany Senior High School. We were actually starting to get quite worried we were going to have to have a tie breaker as all of the school groups were getting all the questions correct until almost all the answers had been given.



Left: Brainstorming session. The front group from NASHS were discussing Fire with Leigh Whisson & Sarah Comer facilitating & the back group from Katanning were discussing Climate Change with Jackie Courtenay & David Wettenhall facilitating. Photo: Marnie Giroud

After a short break, the students worked in their groups on a brainstorming session. Each group was given one of the key threats to Gilbert's Potoroo to discuss – Fire, Feral Predators, Lack of Genetic Diversity and Climate Change – and were asked to come up with ideas as to how that threat affected the Potoroos both directly and indirectly. Every group came up with a long list of relevant and thoughtful ideas which was very impressive.



The event ended with afternoon tea which was catered by the students from Katanning Senior High School who had put a huge effort into creating a range of threatened species cakes which they also entered into the Threatened Species Commissioner's Threatened Species Bake Off competition that was running at the time. Overall it was a very successful afternoon, the students worked hard and were attentive and engaged throughout all the talks and activities so we feel satisfied it was a good end to a very successful grant.

The fantastic selection of threatened species cakes produced by the students from Katanning Senior High School for the event (& the Threatened Species Bake Off). Can you guess what they all are?? Photo by Leigh Whisson

[Back to page 1](#)

Successful Applicants for State NRM Large Grants Announced

We were very excited on September 20 (unexpectedly - we thought the announcement wouldn't be until November!) to learn that State NRM have awarded GPAG \$260,387 over 2 years to work with Edith Cowan University's Molecular Ecology and Evolution Group (MEEG), DBCA and the Southern Aboriginal Corporation rangers to investigate using native truffle eDNA in soil to assess habitat suitability for Gilbert's Potoroo. Another part of the project will work with local Indigenous Elders to learn more about the Potoroo's historical distribution and habitat in the Albany area.

We are in the process of contracting the grant so will have much more news to come over the next few months including lots of opportunities for volunteering (see the reminder above that you need a DBCA Dieback Green Card to volunteer with GPAG). The announcement of the grants can be found at this link <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/.../State-NRM...> and it was nice to see our Gilbert's Potoroo project got a special mention a couple of times in the media release. Lots of work ahead but looking forward to some really fantastic outcomes for the Potoroos over the next couple of years. The Albany Advertiser also published the following article about the grants including an interview with our Chair Alan Needham <https://thewest.com.au/.../gilberts-potoroos-and-black...>. Hopefully they will continue to show interest in reporting on the project as the work progresses.

Gilbert's potoroos and black cockatoos to benefit from State Government grants for local conservation projects

Kasey Gratton | Albany Advertiser
Thu, 6 October 2022 2:00AM

Kasey Gratton



© A Gilbert's potoroo. Laurie Benson Credit: Laurie Benson/The West Australian

[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.

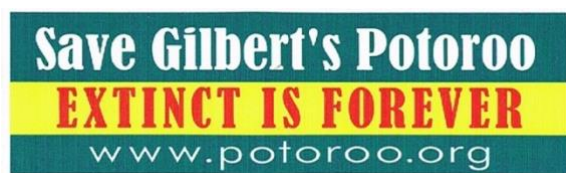


Printed by the Environmental Printing Company on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. Blank inside.
\$5 each or 5 for \$20.

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.



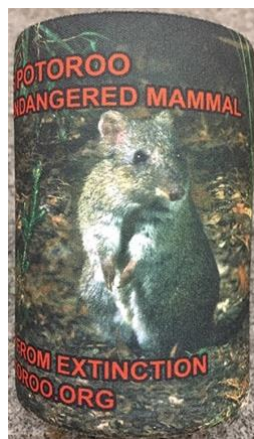
BUMPER STICKERS: FREE with other items



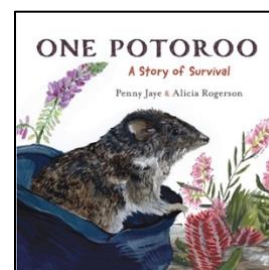
POSTCARDS: Featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker and information about the Potoroo on both the front and back
FREE with other items



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

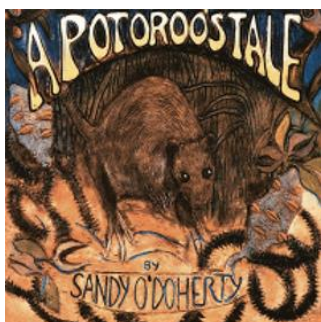


STUBBY HOLDERS: Designed by GPAG members featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker.
\$10 each or 2 for \$15

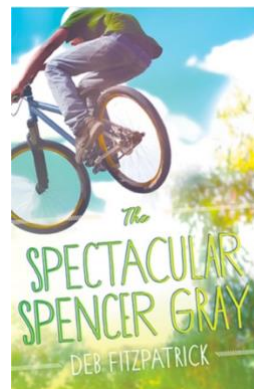


ONE POTROO: A STORY OF SURVIVAL: A heart-warming story of disaster and rescue of one Potoroo

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 POTROO'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 68 479 (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 Potoroo's Tale | \$15.00 | | |
| Spectacular Spencer Gray | \$15.00 | | |
| | | Product total | |
| | | Postage & packing (<500g)* | \$10.00 |
| | | Add a donation? | |
| | | Total Cost | |

* 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

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 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.

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