



Potoroo Postings

Issue # 2022/4



CALENDAR	1
FROM THE CHAIR	2
POTOROO REINTRODUCTION TO TWO PEOPLES BAY	3
VOLUNTEERING	4
Camera Trap Servicing at Two Peoples Bay	4
South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project:	
Image analysis on Zooniverse	4
Volunteers require a DBCA Dieback Green Card	6
FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS	6
Current and Recent Fundraisers	6
Australian Geographic Fundraiser	6
Ongoing Fundraisers	6
Containers for Change	6
Awareness Raising	7
"Cats on Candid Camera" event	7
Launch of the Gillami Gilbert's Potoroo Poster	8
GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS	8
New State NRM Large Grant	8
MERCHANDISE	9
MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM	10
MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM	11

CALENDAR

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

Upcoming events for 2023 are still very much in the planning stage so we do not have any definite dates for the calendar at this stage.

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.

Season's Greetings

Season's Greetings to all our members, donors, supporters, volunteers and social media followers who have given us and Gilbert's Potoroo so much support in 2022. Thank you all so much - we couldn't do it without you. Looking forward to another busy & exciting year in 2023. Stay safe everyone and see you all again in the New Year.

Best wishes 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](https://twitter.com/gilbertspotoroo) [@GilbertsPotorooActionGroup](https://facebook.com/GilbertsPotorooActionGroup) [@gilbertspotoroo](https://instagram.com/gilbertspotoroo)

FROM THE CHAIR

Farewell to an extraordinary year... but lots more to come in 2023!

What a year it has been for GPAG and Gilbert's Potoroo!

In the space of 12 months GPAG has attracted more than half a million dollars in Commonwealth and State NRM grants to fund work aimed at predator control in Two Peoples Bay, environmental DNA studies aimed at finding suitable new translocation sites for potoroos, and tapping into local Indigenous knowledge of the potoroo and its history.

In September, DBCA brought Potoroos back to Two Peoples Bay for the first time since the fire of 2015 destroyed 90% of their habitat and are now re-establishing themselves in areas recovering from the fire.

Gilbert's Potoroo came a creditable 5th in the Australian Mammal of the Year competition run by Cosmos magazine. Next year we intend to win!

More than 1,300 volunteers from around the world are currently participating in a South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery project on Zooniverse which we hope might just find potoroos in new south-west locations but, even if it doesn't, it will provide crucial information on predators and threatened species on the south coast.

The Potoroo Recovery Team had its 50th meeting in November and GPAG has just turned 21!

It is fair to say that public awareness of Gilbert's Potoroo has never been higher, and both DBCA and GPAG can share the credit for that. There have been many other events this year I haven't mentioned, but a glance at our recent newsletters will show just how active your committee has been in raising that awareness.

Thank you for your support of all these activities and your continuing commitment to potoroo conservation. Wishing you all happy holidays and a prosperous new year.

Alan



GILBERT'S POTOROOS RETURNED TO TWO PEOPLES BAY BY DBCA

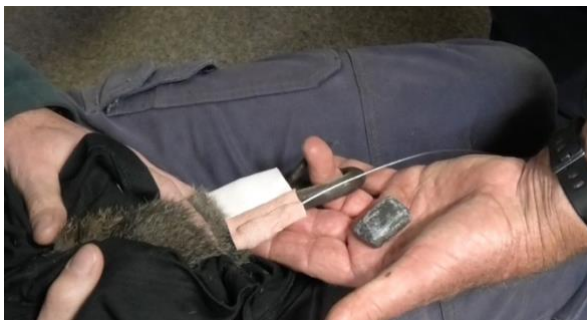
This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government through the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc and South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.

In September 2022, DBCA released six Gilbert's Potoroos from Bald Island and the Waychinicup Enclosure back into Two Peoples Bay to help rebuild the population that was almost destroyed by the catastrophic 2015 fire that burnt over 90% of Potoroo habitat leaving only a handful of survivors. Radiotracking of the translocated animals will provide information on how the animals are using the recovering burnt habitat for feeding and resting. Details of the translocation were not however announced by DBCA until November 24 and the announcement was followed by quite a flurry of media coverage. The DBCA news statement can be found at the following link:

<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/news/gilbert%E2%80%99s-potoroos-return-to-two-peoples-bay>



GPAG Deputy Chair Leigh Whisson and Communications Coordinator Jackie Courtenay were coincidentally present while Tony Friend fitted the radio transmitters and GPS data loggers to two Waychinicup animals and Jackie was privileged to release the first animal back onto Mount Gardner.



Above and far left: Tony Friend fitting a radio transmitter & GPS data logger to the tail of a Gilbert's Potoroo. Left: Jackie Courtenay releasing the first Potoroo onto Mt Gardner. Photos: Leigh Whisson

ABC News ran a story about the translocation on November 24 (unfortunately no longer available on iView) and an article quoting Tony Friend and Lesley Gibson from DBCA was published on the ABC website on November 25. The ABC article can be read at the following link: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-25/gilberts-potoroo-rare-marsupial-back-released-at-two-peoples-bay/101693304>. The article was then re-written by the ABC for publication in the Summer edition of Wildlife Australia magazine. A preview of the Wildlife Australia article can be found at the following link <https://wildlife.org.au/wildlife-australia-magazine/> (scroll down to the Preview Wildlife Australia Summer 2022) but the whole article is only available by purchasing a copy of the magazine or subscribing to the online version.

Right: Preview of the Wildlife Australia magazine article about the reintroduction.



An interview with Tony Friend and Jackie Courtenay was broadcast on ABC Great Southern Breakfast on November 25th but again the “Listen Back” for this interview has now expired. GWN7 also broadcast a news item about the reintroduction on November 25 which can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.7regionalwa.com.au/news/7478805-potoroo>.

This reintroduction is an extremely exciting (if somewhat nerve-wracking) next step in the recovery of Gilbert’s Potoroo at Two Peoples Bay and we are looking forward to hearing more about the progress of the reintroduced animals over the next few months.

VOLUNTEERING

Camera Trap Servicing at Two Peoples Bay

The latest round of servicing of camera traps at Two Peoples Bay was undertaken on November 23 and 24 with the assistance of both GPAG and other community volunteers. This was the first service of the 15 additional cameras funded by the Commonwealth government through GPAG after they were deployed on September 1, as well as the original 15 cameras so with 30 cameras now to service the work was done over two days. GPAG Committee member and long-term Potoroo volunteer David Wettenhall was the only volunteer available on November 23, while November 24 was the opposite with a “cast of thousands” including four volunteers and three DBCA staff members. The servicing all went smoothly and, all going to plan and depending on the availability of DBCA staff, the next service will be undertaken in Autumn 2023.

GPAG Members will be advised of upcoming camera servicing opportunities via email as soon as DBCA informs us of their planned dates and we suggest that if you are keen to volunteer you register your interest as soon as possible after receiving the email notification as places can fill up every quickly. Thank you to everyone who has participated in the camera servicing in 2022 and we look forward to continuing to support DBCA with managing these cameras in 2023.



Top: David Wettenhall servicing a camera at the back of Little Beach, Two Peoples Bay. Photo: DBCA - Mark Blythman. Bottom: The November 24 team servicing one of the last cameras of the day Photo: DBCA – Larisse Guislan

[Back to page 1](#)

South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project: Image analysis on Zooniverse

As of December 29, we are excited that 1350 volunteers have analysed over 200,000 images on Zooniverse for the South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project. That is an average of 148 images per volunteer although some have done many more than that! There were over 40,000 individual images loaded to start this project and each one needs to be checked by 20 volunteers before it is considered “Completed” so we have a lot of work still to do (and then there will be another lot of images loaded...).

SOUTH COAST THREATENED FAUNA RECOVERY PROJECT STATISTICS

0% Complete

1,350

Volunteers

200,249

Classifications

40,065

Subjects

0

Completed Subjects

The South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project statistics from December 29. Image is a screen shot from the Zooniverse project home page <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/abbsta/south-coast-threatened-fauna-recovery-project>

In our State NRM grant project description we estimated that 100 volunteers would be involved in analysing these images so to have 1350 participating in less than 2 months is far beyond our expectations and a wonderful way to raise awareness of south coast threatened fauna in general and Gilbert's Potoroo in particular. GPAG Deputy Chair Leigh Whisson has been working on creating some short videos using the uploaded images. We are looking forward to starting to share these videos on social media in the New Year to tell the stories of some of the different cameras and hopefully encourage even more people to get involved identifying images. All the images in this newsletter from the Zooniverse South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project are shared under Creative Commons 4.0 International License.



A selection of images from the DBCA/Zooniverse project. Top left: Wedge-tailed Eagle. Top right: Echidna. Bottom left: Quokka mother and joey. Bottom right: Circling cats. All photos from the DBCA/Zooniverse South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project are shared under Creative Commons 4.0 International License.

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 early next year, 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

The Australian Geographic fundraiser for Gilbert's Potoroo (<https://www.givenow.com.au/gilberts-potoroo>) is nearing its end and has so far raised \$1152. Thank you to everyone who has donated and to Jennene Riggs from Riggs Australia and Jiri Lochman from Lochman Transparencies for helping make the promotional material for this fundraiser so beautiful. Your support is much appreciated.

Right: The poster displayed in QBD bookshops featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Jiri Lochman



AG Society Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group

With only 100-120 remaining in the wild, the Gilbert's Potoroo is critically endangered and at serious risk of extinction without continued conservation action. Because of its sensitive nature and extremely specialist diet, Gilbert's potoroos do not do well in captivity, so the creation of safe haven populations is the only way to increase their numbers. They are threatened by fire, feral predators, inadequate gene flow between the sub-populations and climate change. Your donation will help Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group support critical recovery actions undertaken by scientists and volunteers to help Gilbert's Potoroo survive into the future.



Link via our website: [australiangeographic.com.au/fundraising](https://www.givenow.com.au/gilberts-potoroo)

Ongoing Fundraisers

Containers for Change

GPAG Member #: C10289767

Since our last newsletter on November 15 generous supporters have donated \$115.40 in refunds from their drink containers returned for recycling. That's an extraordinary 1154 drink containers in just over six weeks – a great donation to GPAG but also a lot of plastic, aluminium, glass and cardboard saved from landfill!! Thank you everyone who has donated their containers. With Christmas and New Year parties in full swing we encourage people to consider donating their drink containers from Christmas and New Year's Eve events and parties to GPAG to help us continue to support Gilbert's Potoroo in 2023.

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](#)



Hi Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group,

Great news! One of our Change Makers has returned 49 containers to and they've donated their \$4.90 refund to you. What a legend, right?

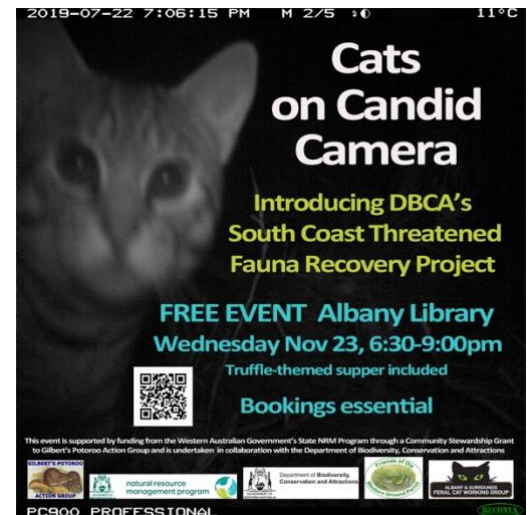
Awareness Raising

“Cats on Candid Camera” event to launch the DBCA/Zooniverse South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project

On November 23, we held an event at the Albany Public Library to officially launch the DBCA/Zooniverse South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Project (even though the actual site had been live since November 1). The event included several presentations, a truffle themed supper with plenty of time for networking and socialising and, for those who were interested, an informal workshop on the Zooniverse system with the opportunity to ask questions of the researchers and moderators.

Sarah Comer and Abby Thomas from DBCA spoke about the management of threatened species on the south coast as well as the Zooniverse project itself. Jackie Courtenay and Leigh Whisson from GPAG talked about GPAG’s contribution of cameras to the project and showed a range of images from Two Peoples Bay, some of which Leigh had combined into short videos illustrating the range of species seen on one particular camera, including images of cat predation on native species. Paul Wettin showed the Friends of the Western Ground Parrot’s short video about the trial translocation of birds from Cape Arid to a site east of Albany and Jenni Loveland from the Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group gave a passionate talk about the danger cats pose to threatened species and how cat owners can help to reduce their impact by desexing and containing their pet cats. All of the talks were very interactive with an engaged audience asking lots of questions leading to stimulating discussions.

Right top: Event advertisement for Albany library e-News. Right middle: GPAG Chair Alan Needham opening the event. Right bottom: Sarah Comer (DBCA) talking about south coast threatened species management. Photos: Jackie Courtenay. Below left: Quenda digging for food. Below right: Cat with a predated Quenda in its mouth. Images DBCA/Zooniverse



[Back to page 1](#)



The truffle themed supper was amply catered by Ocean and Paddock with a wide range of options to suit different tastes. While most people chose to remain near the food eating and socialising, about ten people made their way to the front of the venue to participate in the informal workshop which was again a stimulating question and answer and discussion session with the various Zooniverse Researchers and Moderators. Overall 33 people attended the event including the speakers and GPAG volunteers.

Right: Setting out the truffle themed supper. Photo: Jackie Courtenay



[Back to page 1](#)

Launch of the Gillami Potoroo Poster in honour of Gilbert's Potoroo Day



December 1 marked the fourth annual Gilbert's Potoroo Day which celebrates the rediscovery of Gilbert's Potoroo at Two Peoples Bay in 1994. To honour the occasion this year, Ashley Marjoram from Gillami Centre suggested a social media launch of their Gilbert's Potoroo poster which is part of a series of posters created in collaboration with artist Katharina Rocksien to shine a light on some of WA's threatened and endangered fauna species. The creation of this series was supported by South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc, through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. You can see more of Katherine's work on her website at the following link: <http://www.katharinarocksien.com>. While it was only a social media launch, the posts were seen by 356 people on Facebook, 229 on Instagram and 882 on Twitter and the various posts were liked and shared about 70 times, hopefully reaching some new audiences and helping raise awareness of the potoroos.

GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS

New State NRM Large Grant

Contracting for our new State NRM Large Grant entitled "Investigating habitat requirements for new homes for Gilbert's Potoroo" unfortunately could not be completed prior to the Christmas shut down. We will have a lot more information about the project and our first underground fungi surveys will be getting underway early next year so we should have more to report in our next newsletter, including an introduction to the Edith Cowan University PhD student, Rebecca Quah who will be doing the laboratory work for the project. We are very excited to meet her and to have the project fully contracted and underway in the next few weeks.

[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.

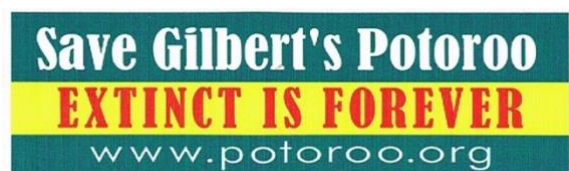


Printed by the Environmental Printing Company on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. Blank inside.
\$5 each or 5 for \$20.

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.



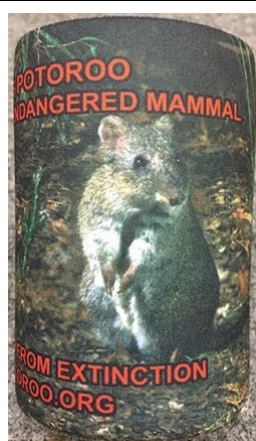
BUMPER STICKERS: FREE with other items



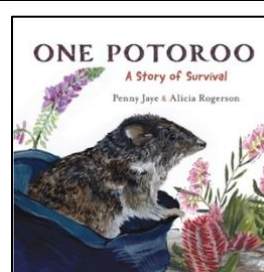
POSTCARDS: Featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker and information about the Potoroo on both the front and back
FREE with other items



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

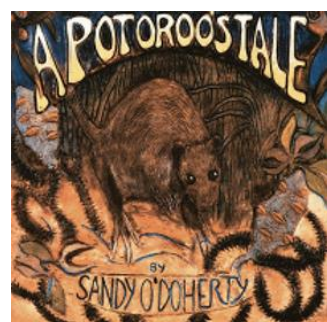


STUBBY HOLDERS: Designed by GPAG members featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker.
\$10 each or 2 for \$15

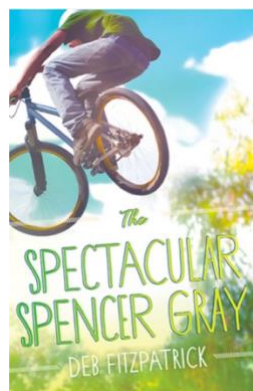


ONE POTROO: A STORY OF SURVIVAL: A heart-warming story of disaster and rescue of one Potoroo

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 75 191 868 479 (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 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