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GILBERT'S POTOROO RECOVERY PROGRAM REPORT

Happily we can report that since the last newsletter, the Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Program has continued to march forward. At that stage we had just released 9 potoroos into the Waychinicup enclosure and they seemed to be settling in well.

In March Tony and volunteer Alan Danks went to Bald Island looking for new areas that the potoroos had moved into. This resulted in the discovery of some parts of the island newly-invaded by potoroos and new traplines were established. The survey showed that the potoroos don't inhabit the limestone section on the north-east coast of the island. This was an interesting finding that will help us in the hunt for new translocation sites on the mainland.

In June a trip to Bald Island was carried out, with Tony and DEC Wildlife Officer Jon Pridham for the first week, and Tim with volunteer Claire Bailey for the second. The task was to carry out a full census of the potoroos there, including running the new traplines. The trapping trip was extremely successful, resulting in the capture of 49 independent potoroos, trouncing the previous record of 29 from November 2009! Amazingly, this total included 9 of the 10 founder potoroos, the first four of which were transferred to the island in 2005. That includes the old bloke, male 72, who was first captured on Waterfall trapline at Two Peoples Bay in 2002!

With the success of the Bald Island translocation, we now have a good source of potoroos for translocation to other sites. This and changes in funding have meant that we have had to close down both the Two Peoples Bay captive facility and the cross-fostering facility at Lower Kalgan. Although a positive move, this sadly means that Val Hack and Susanne Schreck, who have been absolutely fantastic in their roles as potoroo feeders and carers, have finished those jobs now. We thank Val and Susanne for their utter devotion to the captive potoroos and wish them both the best for the future. We hope that they find jobs of equal satisfaction very soon.

The growth in numbers indicated that this was a good time to continue to move potoroos to mainland sites. Two translocations were approved and carried out. One involved moving 8 potoroos, five fitted with transmitters, to the Waychinicup enclosure, to be released in a section away from the "classic" potoroo habitat where the first release was carried out. Although the potoroos fitted with transmitters moved away from the release site, four of the five have stayed together and settled in a stand of stunted jarrah with dense understorey, well populated with quokkas.

Continued on page 2



GILBERT'S POTOROO RECOVERY PROGRAM REPORT (CON'T)

The other translocation was an experimental release in the Mermaid Point area in the eastern part of Waychinicup National Park. This area was not burnt in the 2005 Mount Manypeaks wildfire and is baited quarterly for foxes from ground and air under DEC's *Western Shield* program. Six potoroos were fitted with transmitters on Bald Island and flown by helicopter to the release site on 29th September 2010. Late winter-early spring is the best time to move potoroos as the fungal food abundance is highest then. Within days of the release, however, we began finding potoroos that had been killed and cached by foxes. Nine days after the release, five of the six potoroos were dead, possibly all killed by the same fox or pair of foxes. September is also the time that foxes have cubs in the den. This carnage was very disappointing, especially as the area had been baited only a week before the release. The lessons from the experiment were to spend a lot of time choosing the very best thick, habitat, and to bait intensively and assess predator presence carefully before a release. We certainly have more respect for the habitat at Two Peoples Bay, where potoroos are able to coexist with foxes that survive the baiting regime.

Summer will be occupied with intensive monitoring of the Waychinicup enclosure, to get a better handle on the survival and breeding of the potoroos there. We will be calling for volunteers to help us!

Thanks again to GPAG for fantastic support throughout the year and to all those who have helped us in the field and in other ways. All the best for Christmas, and see you in the New Year! Tony Friend, Stephanie Hill and Tim Button, DEC Science Albany.



'If I only I could get the lid off!'. This quokka is regular visitor to our Bald Island campsite and is desperate to get into that tub of peanut butter! Photo by Alan Danks





WHY I AM A VOLUNTEER

For me a very real bonus of joining the Gilberts Potoroo Action Group has been not just the comradeship I have found, but the volunteering opportunities. Getting up early - and it is for me very early in summer (0430 hours)- is rewarded by the beauty of the untarnished landscape of Two Peoples Bay at dawn, and the awakening of the unsullied bushland. The volunteer's job is to record the details the DEC member gives you about any animal found in a trap. You, of course, are hoping it is a Gilbert's Potoroo, but Quenda, Quokka, Mardo, Bush-Rat, King Skink, and even a Bristle Bird may be found. I really enjoy it when I am asked to release them, a close up encounter! Often on your walk you are serenaded by a Noisy Scrub Bird, another endangered species. Before returning to civilisation one enjoys a hot drink and some sustenance. All very refined! Volunteers are also needed to go to Bald Island, this expedition is tougher and entails camping out for a week, working from sun-up to sun-down. It is wonderful to know that the Gilberts Potoroo is flourishing over there on this pest free island, and their range is extending. Apart from the trapping I have enjoyed helping at a sausage sizzle at Bunnings, at a stall at the Albany Show, and to go on a one off trip to Perth for a DEC morning tea for volunteers which included a night at Dryandra, and the thrill of a close encounter with a numbat!

All I can say is I am so glad I learnt about this group.

BY KATHY BELL, VOLUNTEER

A TALE OF TWO VOLLIES

What drives GPAG volunteers to respond to interesting challenges?

Hidden Gully is a gully running down to the ocean on the side of a 200 metre (600 foot) high granite rock face on the Western flanks of Mount Gardiner in the Two Peoples Bay area. This is no ordinary gully. It has very thick vegetation, is quite steep, is "hidden" behind steep granite outcrops and would be seen by some people as very difficult to get to. "So what", you may ask.

In June 2010 volunteer Bev Davis told me she had been asked by Tony Friend whether she and I would be interested in volunteering to go on a mission to collect three abandoned traps which had been set in the bottom of Hidden Gully on a 16 trap trap-line 16months ago.

The Potoroo Recovery Program research team had started to run very short on traps because of the more extensive trapping program on Bald Island and had recently sent staff to the site to bring all the traps out. Apparently three traps at locations HG14, HG15 and HG16 were not found. Tony now needed the three remaining traps. Our mission would be to use a DEC GPS to locate the missing traps and bring them out. We both knew it wouldn't be the easiest of tasks (we had been there before), but quite manageable for fit young people like ourselves (Bev is 74 and I am 60), so we accepted the challenge and off we went to Hidden Gully a few days later.

Our trek began from the 4WD parking spot at the start of the former Cape Vancouver Walk Trail which is now closed to the general public. After an invigorating scrubby walk/crawl along the overgrown walk trail, then a trek thorough quite prickly native bush, we arrived at the top of the granite rock-face and contemplated the drop below us. We had intended taking a shortcut to the traps by using the steep rock-face to get down to the bottom, but decided wet surfaces from an overnight shower would make it a bit too risky heading down. We didn't fancy a 600 foot tumble down rocks into the ocean.





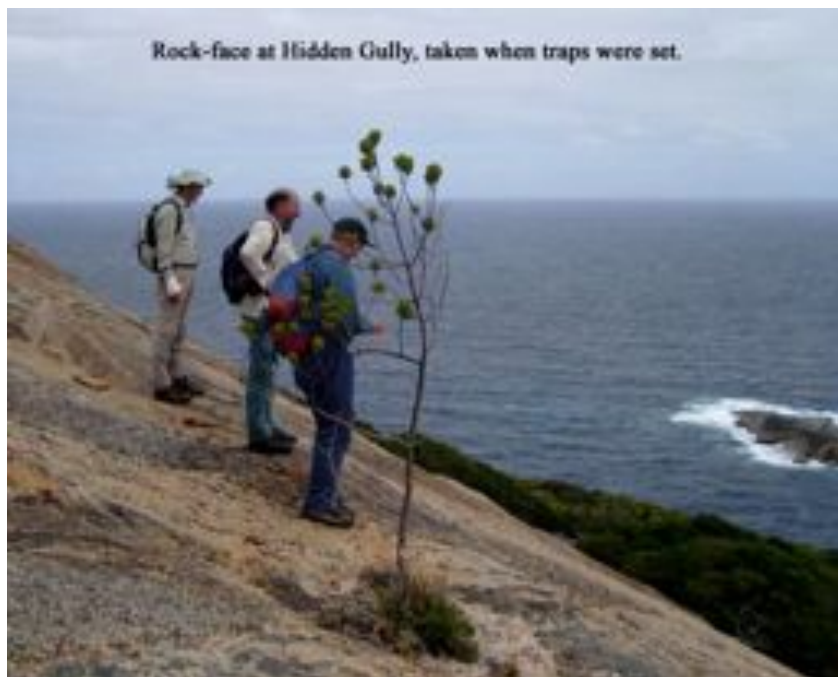
A TALE OF TWO VOLLIES (CON'T)

Discretion was agreed on so we went across the top and followed the old trap line down the heavily vegetated gully. To practice using the modern DEC GPS we set about locating the empty trap sites along the way. It worked well. I was a little amazed though when at HG9 we came across a trap????? There wasn't supposed to be a trap there. Bev had a weak phone signal so called Tony, (who was on his way to Canberra), to try and find out what was going on. He reacted by asking what on earth we were doing at HG9 anyway but agreed there shouldn't have been a trap there. We obviously had to carry it out so we folded it up and headed on our way. I started to get a little concerned about how to physically get traps back to the car when we also found traps at HG10 and HG11. If it continued on like this we would end up with 8 traps and bags to try to get out of here. The total weight of just three traps with their bags is about 9kg. That is not the only issue though, as anyone who has hauled them around Bald Island will confirm, they are an awkward shape to carry/drag in thick scrub. Eight traps would have been a big struggle for us, but I am sure we would have managed, even if it took until dark. It was with great relief when we found no traps at the next 5 sites. Obviously there was a mistake with the trap referencing so it all worked out well.

“All” we had to do now was get up the rock-face which was now quite dry after a morning of sunshine and back to our vehicle. With the excellent views, great whale watching and even a few flowers out to provide a distraction, the climb up and scrubby scramble out went comparatively smoothly.

“Mission accomplished”. That's what drives volunteers to respond to interesting challenges.

By Ken Blechynden, volunteer.



Left- Right: Colin Steele, Ken Belchynden, Tony Friend on the original expedition to position the traps 16 months ago (NB—Colin carried 6 traps whilst everyone else carried 5! 'Onya' Colin!) Photo by Shane Hall.





SOCIAL EVENTS

KARRI VALLEY WEEKEND

On Friday 21 and Saturday 22 May 2010, 15 GPAG members travelled to Karri Valley Resort for a social weekend. Though it was wet and wild weather, we were able to do the Beedelup Falls walk and enjoy the beauty of the bush and lake setting. Friday night was drinks and casserole and we stayed cosy and warm by the wood fire. On the Saturday night, we enjoyed dinner in the restaurant by the lake.

Social events are advertised to our members, so keep an eye out for future events.

PERTH ZOO EVENT

On 12 June 2010, GPAG held an informal meeting at the Perth Zoo Homestead Barn facility. The get-together was preceded by refreshments. It began with a brief address by the Chairperson, Ron Dorn in which he outlined the formation and goals of GPAG, fund raising and the allocation of funds raised in support of the Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Program. This was followed by a very interesting power point presentation by Dr Tony Friend, Principal Research Scientist, Department of Environment and Conservation. The audience included members from Albany, but also our Perth-based supporters and other interested members of the public. The success of this event gives us inspiration to hold further meetings and information afternoons at the South Perth Zoo. Our thanks go to Perth Zoo for supporting our Perth meeting by providing the excellent venue. Particular thanks to our hard-working Treasurer, Val and Secretary, Barbara.

WINE CHEQUE HAND-OVER : Wine Series 2009

Members and friends gathered at the Vancouver Café on 24th June to receive a cheque for \$3818 from Shelley Coad of Jingalla Wines. Three Jingalla wines, a Riesling Reserve, Sauvignon Blanc Verdelho and a Cabernet Sauvignon were featured in the series and well as the 10th Anniversary Port. This brings the total amount raised from wine sales to over \$34,000 . We would like to thank all the people that have purchased wine in order to support GPAG over the years.



Front L-R: Ron Dorn (GPAG Chair), Shelly Coad (Jingalla Wines).
Back L-R: Neil Houghton, Steph Hill, Val Hack, Eva, Tony Friend and Ray George





SOCIAL EVENTS

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

On 4th December 2009, the annual DEC Volunteer Awards ceremony was held at the Matilda Bay Restaurant in Perth. In recognition of the work of South Coast volunteers who had made a large contribution to work on threatened mammals, including Gilbert's potoroo, certificates of appreciation were awarded to 17 people. Nine volunteers, including 8 members of GPAG, were taken by bus (driven by volunteer Colin Steele) to Dryandra, where after a walk viewing the wildlife and some mischievous tricks by Eunice Daubert, we enjoyed a barbecue hosted by Tony Friend. Next morning we attended the ceremony, where we were each presented with an Outstanding Service Award certificate by the Minister for the Environment, Donna Faragher.

The volunteers who received awards were: Jessica Ashburner, Raye Archer, Kathy Bell, Ken Blechynden, Ken Bushell, Bill Crisp, Helen Crisp, Eunice Daubert, Bev Davis, Val Hack, Mike Hall, Shane Hall, Neil Hogstrom, Neil Houghton, Susanne Schreck, Colin Steele and Brian Taylor.

We would like to extend our extreme gratitude to all our volunteers over the years, without whom the work would have been difficult on our own. Congratulation to those volunteers who received their Volunteer Awards. Thank You! from Tony Friend, Steph Hill and Tim Button.



Front L-R: Kathy Bell, Eunice Daubert, Donna Faragher (Minister for the Environment), Bev Davis, Val Hack.
Back L-R: Neil Houghton, Ken Blechynden, Ken Bushell, Neil Hogstrom, Colin Steele, Dr Tony Friend (Principal Research Scientist, DEC).





A SPECIAL CASE FOR AUSTRALIA'S RAREST MAMMAL

Four fabulous wines from the award winning Jingalla Winery have been specially labeled to feature the Gilbert's Potoroo. Profits from the sale of the wines will directly support the recovery of this species and the ongoing work of the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc. By popular demand, we again offer the 10th Anniversary Tawny Port.

WINE SELECTION 2010 - TASTING NOTES

2010 Riesling

Jingalla Estate grown and handpicked Riesling. Has a fruit driven spicy fragrant nose. A dry generous long lingering classic citrus lime fruit palate.

2007 Sauvignon Blanc Verdelho

A riot of tropical fruit flavours of gooseberries & melon that linger on the palate. finishing with a splash of tingling citrus

2008 Cabernet Sauvignon

Attractive floral aromas are enhanced by generous offerings of berries, blackcurrants and teasing hints of mint and spicy oak. Well structured medium bodied palate complemented by subtle tannins & fine oak integration.

2010 Shiraz Reserve

Jingalla Estate grown and handpicked Shiraz. A Dry spicy full bodied generous white pepper palate packed with juicy cherry & ripe plum fruit flavours.

Port

A special blend of Shiraz ports. Mellow with a perfect balance of fruit and smooth spirit characters.





WINE ORDER FORM

ALL ORDERS TO BE IN BY 28th JANUARY 2011

Minimum 1 case order (1 doz bots)	Bottle Price	No. Bottles	Case Price	No. Cases	Price
Cartons may be mixed	<i>(incl. GST)</i>		<i>(incl. GST)</i>		<i>(incl GST)</i>
2010 Riesling Reserve	\$16.00	_____	\$192.00	_____	\$ _____
2007 Sauvignon Blanc Verdelho	\$14.50	_____	\$174.00	_____	\$ _____
2008 Cabernet Sauvignon	\$17.00	_____	\$204.00	_____	\$ _____
2010 Shiraz Reserve	\$17.00	_____	\$204.00	_____	\$ _____
10 th Anniversary Tawny Port	\$17.00	_____	\$204.00	_____	\$ _____

Total No. Bottles _____ **Total No. Cases** _____
(Total order, even dozens only)

SUB TOTAL \$ _____

Delivery Charge (**per carton**): Perth & WA South \$13; WA North \$15; Sydney \$21; NSW country \$23; Adelaide \$21;
 SA country \$23; Melbourne \$21; VIC country \$23; Brisbane \$24; QLD country \$26; ACT, NT, TAS \$28.
 Please ring 0409 443 331 with any enquiries.

FREIGHT \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____ ---

PLEASE COMPLETE IN FULL and email/fax/post with payment to:

Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group

PO Box 654

Albany WA 6331

Phone: 0409 443 331 Fax (08) 9844 4951 email: treasurer@potoroo.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: _____ Any special delivery instructions: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS: Visa/Mastercard/Bankcard /Cheque (payable to Jingalla Wines)

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

The Gilbert's Potoroo 2010 Wine Selection is an initiative of the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group and is supported by Jingalla Wines.





MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS

Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group is open to anyone who wishes to help save Gilbert's Potoroo from extinction and our annual membership subscription is currently only \$10 OR \$150 for a lifetime membership (Australian dollars). The group currently meets once a month in Albany, Western Australia, however all members have access to our Potoroo Group mailing list where we post group meeting agendas and minutes, notices and news. Opportunities for volunteer work with the recovery program are generally first notified to the group through the list and members can also use the list to discuss ideas and proposals for group activities and strategies. Lack of funding is one of the greatest difficulties now facing the effort to save Gilbert's Potoroo and so fund raising is one of the three key objectives of our group. Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group is a not-for-profit community volunteer organisation; none of our members or officers are paid by the group, so if you make a donation to our group you can be sure that the money will be used directly to progress actions identified in the Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Plan.

To join Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group or to make a donation please fill out the attached forms.

“Gilbey” GPAG’s Mascot



INTERESTED IN A CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP?

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE

Yes, I/ We..... Of
(C.E.O/ Manager’s Name)

.....
(Company Name)

Wish to register interest in Corporate Sponsorship of Gilbert’s Potoroo. Please send information to:

ADDRESS.....
.....

PHONE (Work)..... (Home).....

Email.....

Please post this form to:

Val Hack (Treasurer)
Gilbert’s Potoroo Action Group Inc
P O Box 654
Albany, WA 6331

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





MEMBERSHIP FORM

To become a member of the GILBERT'S POTOROO ACTION GROUP Please fill out the form below and enclose your subscription.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE (Work)..... (Home).....

Email..... Would you like your newsletter sent by email YES / NO

Annual Subscription \$10

Lifetime Membership \$150

DIRECT DEPOSIT: National Australia Bank; BSB: 086-518; Account Number: 54-316-8395

Cheques make payable to Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc.

Send To: The Treasurer

Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc

P O Box 654

Albany, WA 6331

For more information contact: Val Hack (08) 9841 6620 OR 0409 443 331 OR Email valh@omninet.net.au OR www.potoroo.org

DONATIONS (TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

As a Nationally Registered Environmental Organization, the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc. offers tax deductible* donation facilities.

***To claim tax benefits, please ensure your donation of \$2 and over is made payable to the GPAG Public Tax Deductible Donation Fund.**

Last name:.....First Name(s):

Address.....

Tel:..... Fax:..... Email.....

Amount Paid: \$..... Would you like your newsletter sent by email YES / NO

DIRECT DEPOSIT: National Australia Bank; BSB: 086-518; Account Number: 57-064-2101

Cheques make payable to Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc Public Tax Deductible Donation Fund.

Send To: The Treasurer

Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc

P O Box 654

Albany, WA 6331

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





SPONSOR THE GILBERT'S POTOROO PROJECT

By sponsoring a Gilbert's Potoroo project you can help contribute to the survival of the species.

PERSONAL SPONSORSHIP - \$50.00 (ANNUAL)

By sponsoring the Gilbert's Potoroo your money will go directly to the three current projects, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, Bald Island and Norman's Beach Enclosure involved in helping to save Gilbert's Potoroo. With each sponsorship you will receive a "Sponsorship Certificate", an annual subscription to the Potoroo Postings newsletter which will inform you of how the sponsored projects are progressing and items that have been contributed as a result of sponsorships. As a sponsor you will be invited to a "Meet the Scientist Day" where you will meet other sponsors and spend the day learning about potoroos, visiting the Captive Breeding Centre, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Normans Beach Enclosure and maybe even see a potoroo.

SMALL BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP - \$100.00 (ANNUAL)

With a Small Business Sponsorship you will receive a "Sponsorship Certificate", an annual subscription to the Potoroo Postings newsletter which will inform you of how the sponsored projects are progressing and items that have been contributed to this projected as a result of sponsorships. As a Small Business Sponsor two staff will be invited to a "Meet the Scientist Day" where you will meet other sponsors and spend the day learning about potoroos, visiting the Captive Breeding Centre, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Normans Beach Enclosure and maybe even see a potoroo. Your Business will also be recognised in Potoroo Postings.

To become a SPONSOR of the GILBERT'S POTOROO PROJECT Please fill out the form below and enclose your subscription.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE (Work)..... (Home).....

Email..... Would you like your newsletter sent by email YES / NO

Personal Sponsorship \$50

Small Business Sponsorship \$100

DIRECT DEPOSIT: National Australia Bank; BSB: 086-518; Account Number: 54-316-8395

Cheques make payable to Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc.

Send To: The Treasurer

Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc

P O Box 654

Albany, WA 6331

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

For more information contact: Val Hack (08) 9841

6620 0409 443 331 OR Email valh@omninet.net.au OR www.potoroo.org





PRODUCTS

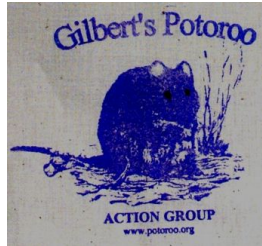
Please fill out the form and send it to the address below.



CARDS: Quality hand made cards featuring a Gilbert's potoroo (blank inside, picture from a watercolour by Jann van der Helder). \$3 ea

Quantity

Total amount ...\$



CALICO BAGS: Made by GPAG members from calico with a potoroo stamp. \$3 ea

Quantity

Total Amount...\$.....



STUBBY HOLDERS: Designed by GPAG members featuring graphics of Gilbert's Potoroo. \$10 ea

Quantity

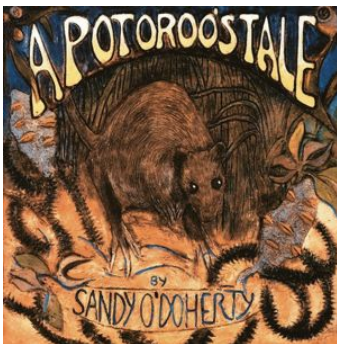
Total Amount...\$.....



CAPS: Front of cap "Gilbert's Potoroo" Back of cap "save us." \$10 ea

Quantity

Total Amount...\$.....



A delightful book written and beautiful illustrated by Albany artist Sandy O'Doherty. All profits from the sale of the book will go to GPAG.

\$15 ea

Quantity

Total amount...\$.....

TOTAL

Plus Postage & Handling...\$5.50
(per 6 items)

GRAND TOTAL...

Merchandise can be paid for by direct deposit or cheque as per below:

DIRECT DEPOSIT: National Australia Bank; BSB: 086-518; Account Number: 54-316-8395

CHEQUES: make payable to Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc

Send To: The Treasurer, Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc, P O Box 654, Albany, WA 6331

