



# Potoroo Postings

Issue #2019/2



## CONTENTS

From the Chair	1
Calendar	1
Recovery Program Update	2
Volunteering	3
Fundraising & Community Awareness	3
Grants and Submissions	8
Merchandise	9
Membership Form	12

## CALENDAR

- June 11-28** (weekdays only): DBCA trapping at Norman's Beach enclosure.
- June 27:** Annual General Meeting, Albany
- July 2-5:** DBCA trapping at Two Peoples Bay
- August:** Launch of new website (exact date to be finalised)
- September 7:** Threatened Species Day
- November 30/December 1:** Gilbert's Potoroo 25th Anniversary event (details to be announced)

## FROM THE CHAIR

Apologies that we are rather later than hoped in getting this autumn edition of the newsletter finalised and out to everyone. We have had a very busy few months with fundraising activities including an exciting new partnership with the Truffle and Wine Company, stalls at two events, and participation in the QV1 abseil, applying for

one Large and one Small State NRM grant, preparing for our AGM and working on our new updated website design. All going to plan we are very much looking forward to launching the new website in early August. We are also in the early planning stages for some exciting events to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rediscovery of Gilbert's Potoroo on December 1 this year. We are not able to announce specific details in this newsletter, but will do so on social media and in subsequent newsletters as plans firm up.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the amazing efforts of a large group of volunteers, many of whom are not yet GPAG members, who have worked hard to help with fundraising and awareness raising for Gilbert's Potoroo and GPAG over the past few months. This includes three of the six participants in the QV1 abseil, who between them all raised over \$9000 for Gilbert's Potoroo, and five other people who assisted on the stalls at the Whiteman Park and Aveley Festivals. We have also been delighted by the fundraising efforts of two groups of ten year olds who, quite separately, have undertaken fundraising for the Potoroos. It gives us hope for the future having these committed and innovative young people showing such initiative to do what they can to help save Australia's rarest mammal.

**Ron Dorn**



Contact us: Email: [mail@potoroo.org](mailto:mail@potoroo.org), Mail: PO Box 654, Albany, WA 6331

Visit us: [www.potoroo.org](http://www.potoroo.org)

Follow us:  @gilbertspotoroo  @GilbertsPotorooActionGroup

## RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATE

By Tony Friend and Steph Hill, DBCA

### Two Peoples Bay

There have been some very exciting potoroo developments at Two Peoples Bay! Since the last newsletter, a previously unknown young male potoroo (pictured right) has turned up in the small section of the Mount Gardner area at Two Peoples Bay unburnt in the 2015 fire. Since late 2017, only one male and one female have been recorded and the female has shown no sign of breeding since 2016.



The new young male at Two Peoples Bay

The new male is only two years old, indicating that his mother is a different female, perhaps still alive somewhere in the reserve. There is increasing evidence, from camera traps and tiny GPS units sometimes fitted to individuals resident in the unburnt section, that potoroos are using the surrounding burnt areas as post-fire vegetation recovery proceeds.

### Waychinicup

Gilbert's potoroos were first translocated into the new 380-hectare enclosure in Waychinicup National Park near Normans Beach in early 2010, after removal of the foxes and cats when construction was completed in 2009. Most new arrivals originated from the burgeoning population on Bald Island and were transferred directly from the island, wearing tail transmitters temporarily taped to their tails. This revealed that unfortunately a significant number of the translocated animals were taken by carpet pythons in the two months that they wore their transmitters.



View from the Waychinicup enclosure



A Waychinicup Potoroo (Photos: Steph Hill)

In order to determine the magnitude of this problem, we began to fit transmitters to every potoroo that was captured in our three-times yearly trapping sessions, whether it came from Bald Island or was born in the enclosure. We found the potoroos that were born on site and the Bald Island animals that had survived the first few months were much less likely to become a meal for a python than a newly arrived animal. Either the island animals that survived the first months learnt some predator awareness, or the least wary individuals were taken early!

There have been no imports from Bald Island since 2014 and potoroos numbers in the enclosure have become quite stable, at 20-25 known individuals. Python predation has become less common, with only one or two animals taken each year while wearing transmitters. DBCA scientist Dr David Pearson has begun a research program to investigate ways to capture and move female pythons, which grow larger than the males and are most likely to take potoroos.

## VOLUNTEERING

During March, volunteers were invited by DBCA to participate in the regular monitoring of Potoroos at Two Peoples Bay and the Waychinicup enclosure. Two GPAG volunteers participated in the trapping at Waychinicup (outcomes reported above). Volunteers also gave many hours of help at stalls fundraising and awareness raising at the Whiteman Park EnviroFest and at the Aveley Park Community Festival as well as signing up for the QV1 abseil and putting a huge effort into fundraising – more details below. Thank you to everyone who helped out, particularly those who are not yet GPAG members who still gave their time and worked hard to help make the events a success.

## FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

### Current and Upcoming Fundraisers

#### New Partnership with The Truffle and Wine Company

Following discussions late in 2018 we have established an exciting new partnership with the Truffle and Wine Company. Given that over 90% of the diet of Gilbert's Potoroo is made up of (native) truffles, a fundraising and awareness raising partnership with Australia's largest truffle producer is, according to Alex Wilson (the Truffle and Wine Company's Sales Manager), a "no brainer". We have signed an agreement to enable us to sell their products for fundraising at stalls and events and Alex assisted us at the Whiteman Park EnviroFest which was our first event selling truffle products, to show us how it's done (see below). Already the Truffle and Wine Company have posters about the Potoroos, brochures and a donation box in their Cellar Door shop in Manjimup and we are looking forward to a long and productive association. We are planning a formal launch of our partnership later in the year when our new website is up and running.



Above: The Potoroo posters and donation box on display at the Truffle and Wine Company's Cellar Door shop in Manjimup (Photos provided by Alex Wilson).

## Website Upgrade and Fundraiser

Our website is currently undergoing a long overdue and much needed upgrade to update the information, make the site more user friendly and ensure it is fully compatible with mobile devices. We are planning to introduce some new features and more readily accessible resources for students and teachers and are aiming to launch the new site in August.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in two grant applications to try and get funding for the upgrade and we have decided that it simply cannot wait any longer. During the upgrade, the old site will remain active, including the Donate button on the Home page <https://www.potoroo.org>. If you can donate to help us fund this upgrade, please include the note "For website" in the comments box so we can track the donations. We are planning a social media based fundraiser to commence in the next couple of weeks but if that is not successful, we may move onto a more formal crowd funding campaign through one of the crowd funding platforms. All donations however small are much appreciated to help us with our ongoing work, particularly the website upgrade, which we expect to greatly enhance our awareness raising activities.

## Recently Completed and Ongoing Fundraisers

### Caversham Wildlife Park 2019 Fundraiser

For the third consecutive year, Caversham Wildlife Park raised funds for Gilbert's Potoroo and the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group as part of their monthly Wildlife Conservation Fundraising program. Their fundraiser for Gilbert's Potoroo was held during the month of February and raised \$583. We are looking forward to working with them again next year. You can find out more about Caversham Wildlife Park by visiting their website <http://www.cavershamwildlife.com.au>

Help us Save Gilbert's Potoroo  
The world's rarest marsupial & Australia's rarest mammal



Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group is a volunteer community group helping to save Gilbert's Potoroo through fundraising, awareness raising & volunteering.

We work with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions & a range of other partners to do what we can to help implement the Recovery Plan to save Gilbert's Potoroo.

Visit our website [www.potoroo.org](http://www.potoroo.org) or follow us on social media  
@gilbertspotoroo  
@GilbertsPotorooActionGroup

### Donation from Friendship Force, Albany

On March 27 GPAG representatives were invited to a morning tea gathering along with several other worthy local charity groups. Ken Bushell & Val Hack attended and were pleasantly surprised by the hosts, the "Friendship Force Albany, Western Australia" group, who presented us with a beautiful card and a generous donation to help with our Potoroo recovery plans. This group is one of over 370 international groups providing unique cultural & travel experiences. Their support is certainly well appreciated & it is heart-warming to receive local community acknowledgement for our efforts.



Albany Friendship Force recently organised and hosted a very successful Global Biosphere Exchange which attracted visitors from countries around the Globe

This resulted in an increase for our bank account which our members have voted to share with your organisation.

We hope this cheque will be of some assistance to continue your good work.

Photos left: GPAG Treasurer Val Hack receiving the donation cheque from Albany Friendship Force President Max Morrison, centre: the generous Albany Friendship Force members and right: the beautiful card we were given with the presentation.

## Whiteman Park EnviroFest

The Whiteman Park EnviroFest was held on March 30 and GPAG had a stall at which, for the first time, we sold Truffle and Wine Company Truffle products and Postcode Honey in addition to our usual Potoroo merchandise. Our communications officer, Jackie Courtenay, accompanied by Vanessa McGuiness, again working her presentation magic as “Gilbey”, gave a short presentation in the Speakers Spot about Gilbert’s Potoroo, its rediscovery, the DBCA led Recovery program, the goals and achievements of GPAG and our partnerships with DBCA and the Truffle and Wine Company (introduced above). The stall and the presentation were successful for both fundraising and awareness raising including receiving \$110 in donations and selling over \$600 of product.



Photos: Above: Alex Wilson with Gilbey (aka Bethan Mercer who did a fantastic job as Gilbey through the day), Far left: The GPAG stall with volunteers Leigh Whisson & Lily Mercer, Left: Our first truffle produce display & tasting set up (Photos by Alex Wilson).

## Aveley Community Festival



GPAG were excited to be invited to participate in the Conservation Corner at the Aveley Community Festival on April 6. Marnie Giroud of Eco Gecko kindly shared her marquee with us and created delightful “Potoroo Pots” - little Easter baskets with Gilbert’s Potoroos on them for kids to colour in and assemble as

part of her eco-craft activities on her side of the marquee (photo right). Marnie also handed out brochures and answered questions about the Potoroos which helped us with our awareness raising, and encouraged at least some of the parents to head over to our stall and buy some merchandise! We again sold a range of Truffle and Wine Company Truffle products and Postcode Honey in addition to our usual Potoroo merchandise. Sales and donations were both a little slower than at



Whiteman Park but we still received nearly \$50 worth of cash donations, sold about \$450 of product, handed out a stack of brochures and did lots of talking to people about Gilbert’s Potoroo. Gilbey (worn mostly by Jacqui Lund) did a fantastic job tin rattling, handing out brochures and having her photo taken with a lot of families.



(All event photos by Marnie Giroud)

## QV1 Abseil

The abseil off the QV1 building in Perth was held on April 12 and 13. Team Gilbert's Potoroo consisted of six daredevils who raised a sensational \$9035 for Gilbert's Potoroo. Such a fantastic effort warrants a longer post from the participants. Photos of the Saturday team provided by Hamish Longbottom.

### Team Gilbert's Potoroo abseilers

#### By Hamish Longbottom

Abseiling 163 metres down one of Perth's skyscrapers is not what most of us do on the weekend but when it comes to saving Gilbert's Potoroo you roll up your sleeves, strap on a harness and double check you packed an extra pair of underwear. Six brave souls sealed the deal along with many others raising money for important charities but everyone was talking about potoroos! It was a surreal experience getting blasted by winds on top of Perth's QV1 building having a conversation with someone about Australia's most endangered mammal while getting tied on to a rope and pushed off a building. OK, so we weren't pushed, just slowly stepped off backwards, but still.



Thanks to some crafty social media posting, cashing in of favours, begging and pleading friends, family, co-workers and strangers, Team Gilbert's Potoroo raised an amazing \$9035 to go towards important work to save the species. The response from donors was overwhelming.



There was the odd "As long as I'm not abseiling...", "Don't die" and "You're crazy but OK" but people were very supportive of the cause and keen to hear more about this curious creature of the south-west. The abseil itself was a great adrenaline rush, with plenty of time to take in some views of Perth and take comfort in the fact that professionals tied the knots keeping you attached.



The rigging crew from Adventure Out were fantastic and made sure everyone had a safe and comfortable descent. The staff from Urban Descent organising logistics were also great, hugely supportive of Team Gilbert's Potoroo - so much so it felt like they were part of the team at times! If



anyone is thinking of taking part in next year's event we strongly encourage you to do so. It is a great experience you will never forget and most importantly you will be helping to raise funds for our friend Gilbert's Potoroo. Thanks to all of you who donated!

You can watch a video of the Saturday team's abseil created by Hamish at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Aeo0Vld2RA>

## Guildford Grammar Shoe Shining

Last year's original six Guildford Grammar Year 4 Shoe Shiners (now year 5s) are at it again, not only shoe shining every Friday but also mentoring the 2019 Year 4s to take up the mantle and keep the fundraiser going. We are hoping to organise a visit by Gilbey sometime in the next few months. Again it is fantastic to see the enthusiasm and initiative shown by these young people in support of Australia's rarest mammal.

## Fremantle Fundraising Stall

A group of nine friends (all aged around 10 years old) from Fremantle recently decided to raise money to donate to GPAG to help the Potoroos. They decided to do this "because of our friend who told us they're the rarest marsupial and there are only 30 - 40 left. If they became extinct we'd feel so sad. We raised money by selling things we had made.



Handpainted chocolates in the shape of little cactus and pineapples, fimo snails, bags of salted caramel popcorn (we sold out of those!) cupcakes, lollies, brownies and dog biscuits". The group raised \$20 from their stall.



Once again, the initiative and dedication shown by these young people to do what they can to help the Potoroos is really inspiring and gives us hope for the future. Photos were provided to GPAG and are used with parental permission.

## Edge Pledge

Our ongoing Edge Pledge challenge-based fundraiser is continuously open for anyone who wants to challenge themselves (possibly in a less dramatic way than the Dawesville Bridge Swing or QV1 abseil!) and raise money for Gilbert's Potoroo at the same time. If you want to participate in an Edge Pledge challenge you can sign up at [www.edgepledge.com](http://www.edgepledge.com) (be sure to select Gilbert's Potoroo as the species you are supporting!) or donate to support other people who are doing, or have completed, challenges.

**EDGE PLEDGE**



GILBERT'S POTOROO

Help the Gilbert's Potoroo survive by backing their Action Group

## Awareness Raising

### Rotary talk and ABC Breakfast interview by Lily Mercer

One of our members, ceramic artist Lily Mercer, has been doing some great outreach recently spreading the word about Gilbert's Potoroo. On February 6 she gave a talk about Gilbert's Potoroo to the Freshwater Bay Rotary Club and on April 22 she was interviewed on Perth ABC Breakfast radio talking about how she tries to encourage children to learn about Australia's native animals and how cat sculptures are banned from her studio! Gilbert's Potoroo & GPAG also both get a special mention. You can listen to her ABC interview at the following link:



<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/perth/programs/breakfast/lily-mercer/11035596>

## GRANTS AND SUBMISSIONS

### **Senate Inquiry into Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis**

Due to the recent Federal election, the Senate Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis is not currently sitting. Public hearings for the Inquiry have been held in Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Brisbane but it is unclear at this stage if hearings are planned in other cities and if so, when – assuming the Inquiry is continued after the election. The committee was initially scheduled to report on December 4 2018 which was then extended to May 29, 2019. On April 2, 2019, the Senate granted a further extension of time to report until November 13, 2019.

The committee tabled an interim report on April 3, 2019 which can be accessed at the following link: [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communication/s/Faunalextinction/Interim\\_report](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communication/s/Faunalextinction/Interim_report). This report concentrates on evidence received by the committee relating to whether the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is currently fulfilling its objectives in protecting threatened species. The committee commented at the end of the report that it “hopes that the work undertaken in this inquiry will be continued in the next Parliament, should the future committee and Senate agree to do so” – as do we!

GPAG's submission can be accessed through the following link: <https://bit.ly/2BMYTh3>.

If you'd like more information on the background to the Senate inquiry, you can also read Lisa Cox's Guardian article at the following link: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/27/senate-inquiry-threatened-species-crisis>.

### **State NRM Community Stewardship Grants**

The 2019 round of State NRM Community Stewardship Grants closed on Monday June 10 and after a marathon effort over the previous week we submitted two grant applications – one each for a Large grant and a Small grant. We have some great support from our partners DBCA and the Truffle and Wine company as well as several other stakeholders who gave us letters of support. We think we have put together two great projects with lots of exciting elements for citizen science and community events etc. Fingers crossed the panel agree. We expect to know the outcome in October or November with successful projects starting in January 2020.



Thank you, your submission has been received.

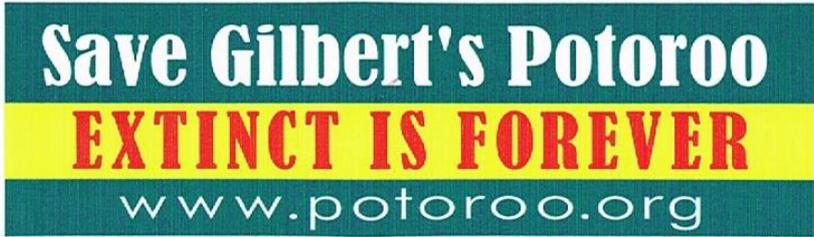
## MERCHANDISE



**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.



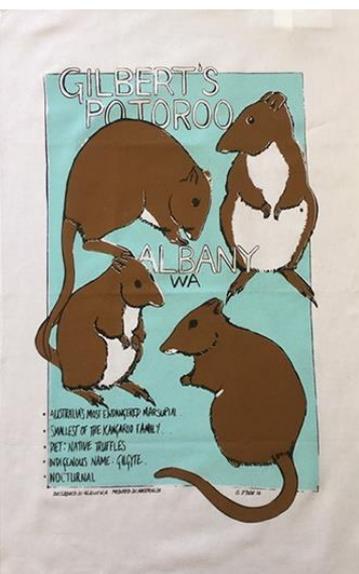
**POSTCARDS:** Featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker and information about the Potoroo on both the front and back  
\$2.50 each



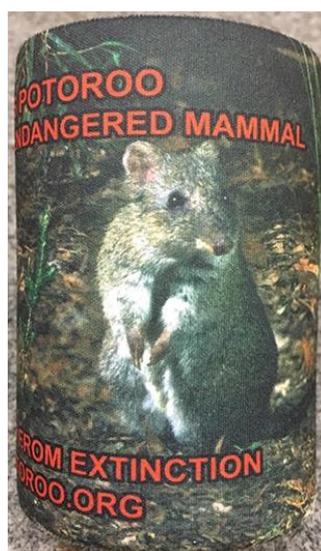
**BUMPER STICKERS** \$2.50



**BOOKMARKS** \$2.00



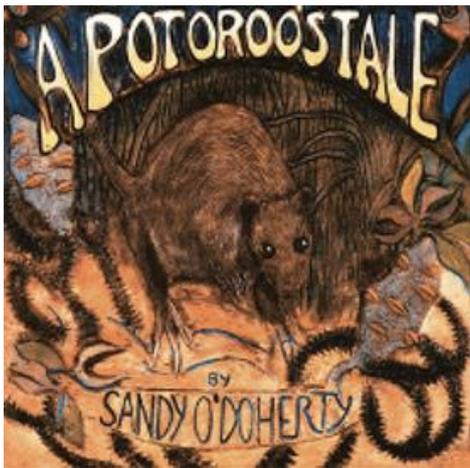
**TEATOWELS:** Printed on 100% cotton with some key facts about Gilbert's Potoroo!  
\$10 each or 3 for \$25



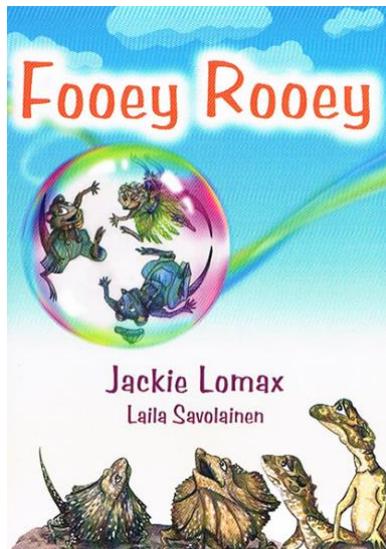
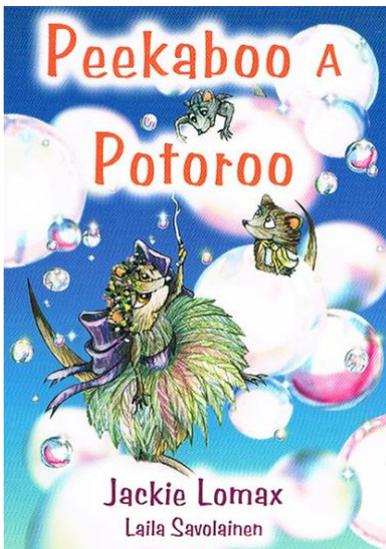
**STUBBY HOLDERS:** Designed by GPAG members featuring a photo of Gilbert's Potoroo by Dick Walker.  
\$10 each or 2 for \$15



CAPS: Front of caps "Gilbert's Potoroo", Back of caps "Help Us". Available in dark green & yellow (white writing) or cream and green. \$10 each



A POTOROO'S TAIL: 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



PEEKABOO POTOROO & FOOEY ROEY: Two gorgeous stories by Jackie Lomax about the adventures of Lyla a lost Long-footed Potoroo finding a new home with Gilbert's Potoroos at Two Peoples Bay. Beautifully illustrated by Laila Savolainen.

\$20 for the pair

## MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Item	Cost/item	Quantity	Total Cost
Cards (ea)	\$4.00		
Cards (pk of 5)	\$16		
Postcards (ea)	\$2.50		
Bumper Stickers (ea)	\$2.50		
Bookmarks (ea)	\$2.00		
Teatowels (ea)	\$10.00		
Teatowels (3 pk)	\$25.00		
Stubby Holders (ea)	\$10.00		
Stubby Holders (2 pk)	\$15.00		
Caps	\$10.00	Cream & Green	
	\$10.00	Solid Green	
Fridge Magnets (ea)	\$2.50		
A Potoroos Tale	\$15.00		
Peekaboo Potoroo & Fooley Rooley (set of 2 bks)	\$20.00		
		<b>Product total</b>	
		<b>Postage &amp; packing (&lt;500g)*</b>	\$10.00
		<b>Add a donation?</b>	
		<b>Total Cost</b>	

\* Within Australia. Postage for larger and overseas orders will need to be costed individually depending on weight and destination. You will be contacted by the Treasurer with a final quote for postage if your order weighs more than 500g or you need the items sent overseas.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Methods

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

Please include your surname and "Merchandise" 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

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

To become a member of the GILBERT'S POTOROO ACTION GROUP, fill out the form below and either pay your subscription by direct deposit and email the form to [treasurer@potoroo.org](mailto:treasurer@potoroo.org) or print out and return by mail with a cheque enclosed. Any questions? Contact Val Hack on 0409 443 331 or Email [treasurer@potoroo.org](mailto:treasurer@potoroo.org)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Subscription \$10                       Lifetime Membership \$150

Would you like your newsletter sent by email     YES                       NO

### Payment Methods

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

## DONATIONS

As a Nationally Registered Environmental Organization the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc. offers tax deductible donation facilities. To claim **tax benefits**, your donation must be a **minimum of \$2** and made payable to the **GPAG Public Tax Deductible Donation Fund**. Tax deductible donations can also be made through our website [www.potoroo.org](http://www.potoroo.org).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Methods

**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** National Australia Bank; BSB: 086-518; Account Number: 57-064-2101.  
Please include your surname in the Reference line and email this form to [treasurer@potoroo.org](mailto:treasurer@potoroo.org)

**CHEQUE:** Please make cheques payable to **Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group Inc Public Tax Deductible Donation Fund**

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