THE INSIDE SCOOP

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S 2
SOCIAL EVENTS 2
GPAG'S YOUNGEST MEMBERS 3
FUNDRAISING EFFORTS 3
PUBLIC AWARENESS 4
MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS 5
CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP 5
MEMBERSHIP FORM 6
SPONSOR THE GILBERT'S POTOROO PROJECT 7
PRODUCTS 8

RADIO-TRACKING POTOROOS AT TWO PEOPLES BAY 2009

Over a two-week period in February 2009, 21 volunteers joined Steph Hill and myself for a Gilbert’s potoroo tracking expedition at Two Peoples Bay. Every year or three we follow the movements of the group of potoroos living in Firebreak Valley by recording their locations at 20 minute intervals through the night to gain a better understanding of their habitat use and interactions with each other. The potoroo tracking worked well, using the new tracking towers funded by GPAG, everyone got on famously and some great poetry and artworks were generated! And I think everyone had a good time.

We achieved a great deal during the two weeks, even beyond the close monitoring of five potoroos in Firebreak Valley, which will give us a greater understanding of potoroo habitat preferences, home range size and social organisation. Amongst the other tasks completed were:

- One night's trapping at Hidden Gully (requiring three trips of 1.5 hours each way, one to carry in and place the 16 cage traps and wire them open for pre-baiting, one to set the traps and one to check them). Although only three bush rats were caught, we found good areas of diggings along the track in and out for future investigation (thanks to everyone who tramped over there and back & Colin who unknowingly carried 6 traps whilst everyone else carried 5!).
- Weeding around the research office area and cleaning out of gutters (special thanks to Elaine).
- Giving the research office the best clean-out it's had for years (thanks to Steph)
- Dismantling and packing up of 14 old tracking aerials (thanks Niki and Jamie)
- Placing rocks around Ryedene compound inner and outer fences to increase security against cat/fox invasion and potoroo escape (hard work - thanks Val and the team)
- Two days hard labour at the Waychinicup enclosure pegging down the fence skirt for the same reasons as above (thanks hard-working teams)
- Three days placing and collecting hair arches with Steph at the Water Authority reserve adjacent to Two Peoples Bay NR to survey for potoroos (3km survey lines - lots of walking!)
- Set up a remote motion-activated video surveillance system to monitor trapping tracks for foxes and cats.

We'd all like to give a special thank you to Ken Blechynden, our tireless volunteer cook, caterer and kitchen organiser for all his hard work and for getting involved in lots of other activities. Ken made a great contribution in encouraging donations of food from many supporters in Albany (our thanks to all who gave food) and greatly cutting the cost of providing food for hard working volunteers, by clever buying and making the most of specials in the weeks leading up to the tracking. Many thanks to the Australian Geographic Society, who provided financial support for this expedition.

Tony Friend
SPECIAL THANK YOU'S
The Gilbert's Potoroo Action group would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their support:

BUSINESS SPONSOR
Joanna Hands, Manager, Bayview Backpackers YHA, 49 Duke Street, Albany, WA 6330.

PERSONAL SPONSORS
Sarah Gill, Jacquelyn Smith, Anne Williams, Garth Wilson, Lindy Wilson, Audrey Turner.

ALBANY BUSINESSES.
Many thanks to the following Albany businesses for donating vouchers or food for our sausage sizzle (see page 3).
• Bakers Delight, Albany, for donating $90 worth of hot dog buns,
• Darryl (Store manager) of Woolworths, Lockyer Ave, Albany, for a $50 Woolworths Gift Voucher,
• Richard (Store Manager) of Coles, Albany, for a $20 Gift Voucher.

Thank you to Great Southern TAFE for donating $250 which went towards the printing of 270 newsletters.

Thank You to Stirling Soft Drinks for donating $130 for the postage of our last Potoroo Postings Newsletter! With their sponsorship we were able to post 200 Potoroo Postings Newsletters nationally and a few to overseas members.

SOCIAL EVENTS

QUAALUP WEEKEND
A wonderful ‘back to nature’ weekend was held at Quaalup in September. The wildflowers and whales were fantastic. The weather came up very windy by Sunday but this didn’t affect a very cosy dinner and evening spent in the old homestead under candle light, dancing and listening to 60’s and 70’s music.

Left to right: Neil Houghton, Ken Bushell,
Bev Davis, Angela Blechynden

ANNUAL POTOROO PICNIC 2008
At the end of each year GPAG holds its Annual picnic for members and families out at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve to ‘catch up’, celebrate and reminisce over another successful year with great wine and food. This year was no different, with Mother Nature providing lovely weather. The only difference was a distinct lack of begging magpies!

Left to right: Arthur Davis, Tony Friend, Steph Hill, Brian & Liz Manning

Left to right: Georgie Folvig, Barbara & Chris Hands, Ken Bushell.
GPAG’S YOUNGEST MEMBERS

Akaisha Hands &
Aiden Polette

Emma Watson

Jacques Radivojevic

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

GILBERT’S POTOROO ACTION GROUP BUNNING’S SAUSAGE SIZZLE

What a day! 320 sausages, 15 kg of onions, 330 bread rolls, tomato sauce, mustard sauce, chilli sauce, brown sauce!! Hundreds of cans of soft drinks. All sold out by 3.30pm and still they line up for more.

A lot of planning went into this Sausage Sizzle Day held at Bunning’s on the 6th of December. Vouchers from Coles, Woolworths and a deal for bread rolls from Baker’s Delight helped with the expenses. We had a roster organised and were warned by the Activities Co-coordinator from Bunning’s (who supply the venue, BBQ and tables etc) that it was going to be busy. And it was! The first hour from about 0830 to 0930 there was just a little trickle of customers and we had grave fears of being left with a big load of sausages and bread rolls etc. But then it picked up and we were very busy right up until we sold out of everything at 1530. Everyone’s idea of a sausage sizzle is different and we certainly had some strange requests, like a small boy who asked for a sausage sizzle, a bun, some onions, red sauce and mustard sauce but he then said he didn’t want the sausage in it!!!! One of my favourites was a young man who came near finishing time and said he wanted 5 sausage sizzles, our volunteer made a joke about the young man eating all five sausage sizzles, the young man looked a little affronted and said they were not all for him, his two mates were having one each and only three were for him. We had a great day and a very successful day, raising over $600 and lots of fun. We handed out lots of Gilbert’s Potoroo brochures and it was pleasing to hear a lot of people say they knew about the Gilbert’s Potoroo and the fight to save it. It was also cheering when people came up to the stall, didn’t want a sausage but just wanted to donate some money. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and buying hot dogs.

WINE LABELLING

Since 2004 Jingalla Wines have been providing 4 fabulous varieties of wine plus a port, which we label to feature the Gilbert’s potoroo. Profits from the sale of the wines directly supports the recovery of this species and the ongoing work of the GPAG. By the end of our 2008 Wine Selection we had sold 967 bottles of wine which required labeling. A small team of 6 lead by Shelley Coad of Jingalla Wines set to work on 16th November to label, box and post the wines in time for Christmas. It is not all hard work there is time for a BBQ lunch and a glass of wine—Jingalla of course! We have raised about $4800 from 2008 wine sales.

Neil Houghton, Barbara Hands and
Georgie Folvig
FUNDRAISING EFFORTS CON'T

A POTOROO'S TALE
Sales of Sandy O'Doherty's book “A Potoroo's Tale” have been progressing steadily. With 20% of profits pledged to GPAG, and in early November 2008 Sandy presented GPAG with a cheque for $940, a welcome contribution to our funds. The book has proved very popular both as an educational tool and a delight to read.

Left to right: Neil Houghton, Bev Davis, Val Hack and author / illustrator Sandy O’Doherty

BAG MAKING
Over the last couple of years staff involved with fauna handling have made the switch from cream calico bags to black cotton drill bags made by Val Hack. The dark colour makes it more inviting for the animals to leave the trap and go into the bag and also the drill is a stronger fabric. As the bags have become more popular Val was receiving orders for 100 bags at a time which is a lot of bags to sew on your own. Now, when orders come in, Val sends out a call for help and GAPG has a ‘bag making’ night. We bring sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, sense of humour and have jobs for those with sewing abilities and for those that don’t. During 3 hours we can make on average 30 bags! Textile traders supplies GPAG the material etc at discount price and to date we have raised $580 from the sale of the black bags.

Ivan Edwards (measuring), Ken Bushell (pinning) and Jenny Merritt (sewing) working hard.

Janet (left) and Sharmaine (right) over-locking the bags.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

THREATENED SPECIES DAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2008
For Threatened Species Day, GPAG had a stall at the Albany Farmers Markets on Saturday 6th September to raise public awareness about the plight of the Gilbert’s Potoroo. There was great interest in the stall with many donations from the generous public. National Threatened Species Day is held on 7th September each year to encourage the community to help conserve Australia's unique native fauna and flora. Everyone can take action to prevent further extinctions by restoring healthy numbers of endangered species and ecological communities in the wild.

ALBANY SHOW NOVEMBER 2008
Every year since 2003 GPAG has had an educational stall at the Albany Agricultural Show to increase public awareness of the Gilbert’s Potoroo. The stall always gathers great interest from the public eager to gain more knowledge about the potoroos, to become members of the group, donate money or to actively volunteer to help potoroos.
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.

“Gilby” 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@omininet.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 potooos, 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.

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 potooos, 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@omminet.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. 20% of all profits from the sale of the book will go to GPAG. $15 ea
Quantity  
Total amount…$………………

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

TOTAL …………………
Plus Postage & Handling…$5.50 (per 6 items)
GRAND TOTAL…