



SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT THREATENED SPECIES OR COMMUNITY RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team name	Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team	
Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year)	Calendar year 2007	
Current membership		
	Member	Representing
1. Chair	Alan Danks	DEC South Coast Region
2.	(Vacant)	WWF Australia
3.	Jackie Courtenay	Consultant Wildlife Biologist
4.	Ron Dorn	Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group
5.	Helen Robertson	Perth Zoo
6.	Tony Friend	DEC Science Division
7.	Peter Mawson	DEC Species and Communities Branch
8.	Alan Needham	Edith Cowan University, Applied Science
9.	Vic Smith	Retired veterinarian, South Coast Community member
10.	David Taggart	Research Scientist, Royal Zoological Society of S.A.
Dates meetings were held	No meetings were held in 2007	
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU	<p><i>Please note: please contact Tony Friend for an update</i></p> <p>The Gilbert's potoroo program made great leaps forward in 2007, with the growing success of the Bald Island translocation and good progress in the planning phase in the construction of a 380-hectare enclosure in Waychinicup National Park.</p> <p>On Bald Island, 10 potoroos were released between August 2005 and December 2007, and at the end of 2007, all were still alive. In addition,</p>	

	<p>five new animals have been caught, including a female who produced her first young during the year. The habitat clearly suits the species and the lack of predation augurs well for the rapid growth of the population.</p> <p>The approval process for the construction of an enclosure in Waychinicup National Park is close to completion, with all documents now forwarded for sign-off. This has been a long process due to the complexity of the project and the potential for impact on other values in the National Park. If approval is given early in the New Year the completion of the enclosure within the proposed time frame and release of animals later in 2008 is very achievable.</p>
<p>List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from actions in Recovery Plan)</p>	
<p>Action 1 Protect the existing wild population and habitat</p>	<p>The Gilbert's potoroo population at Two Peoples Bay exists in long-unburnt bushland on Mount Gardner. During 2007, routine management of the nature reserve included:</p> <p>Fox control by following the approved baiting prescription distribution: quarterly aerial baiting complemented by monthly ground baiting along firebreaks,</p> <p>Fire management, including maintenance of firebreaks including slashed breaks, maintenance of readiness to respond to reports of fire, wildfire suppression</p> <p>Observation of <i>Phytophthora</i> dieback hygiene practices</p> <p>Visitor management to restrict access to potoroo areas</p>
<p>Action 2 Increase understanding of ecology and population biology of Gilbert's Potoroo to underpin management strategies</p>	<p>The Gilbert's potoroo populations at Mount Gardner and Bald Island were monitored.</p> <p>The following studies were continued:</p> <p>Population biology of Gilbert's potoroo through four-monthly census on nine regular traplines (March, June, and November) and annual census on Mount Gardner transect (October).</p> <p>Collaborative study of potoroo diet at Mount Gardner, Bald Island and potential translocation areas with Dr Neale Bougher</p> <p>Collaborative study of health aspects of Gilbert's potoroo with Dr Rebecca Vaughan (Murdoch Uni/Perth Zoo)</p> <p>Collaborative study of blood parasites in Gilbert's potoroo and quokkas with Jill Austen (Murdoch Uni)</p>
<p>Action 3 Search for new populations of Gilbert's Potoroo outside Two Peoples Bay</p>	<p>During 2007, hair-arch surveys for Gilbert's potoroos were carried out in the Betty's Beach/Norman's Beach reserve (vested in the City of Albany), the vicinity of the Norman's Beach enclosure and at Cape Knob (UCL). No potoroos were found.</p>
<p>Action 4 Establish and maintain a captive breeding colony of Gilbert's Potoroo</p>	<p>The Gilbert's potoroo captive colony was maintained, involving daily feeding, three-weekly catch-up and checks and quarterly sand change. Animals are paired up regularly but no young were born. The captive facility has a valuable role in housing animals for quarantine and parasite removal while being moved between field sites, i.e. Two Peoples Bay, Bald Island and the Ryedene enclosure.</p>

<p>Action 5 Develop techniques to enhance the reproductive potential of Gilbert's Potoroo</p>	<p>Cross-fostering:</p> <p>The cross-fostering trial continued in 2007 with transfers of 3 pouch young from wild Gilbert's potoroos to captive long-nosed potoroos in the cross-fostering facility in Lower Kalgan. One was transfer was carried out on 12th April and two on 21st November. Only one transfer, in April, was successful (the pouch young survived to pouch exit). This project is run in collaboration with Dr David Taggart of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia.</p> <p>Ryedene enclosure:</p> <p>No young have been produced in the captive breeding colony since 2001. Breeding occurred in the early years of the colony but has not been sustained. In an attempt to get long-term captive animals breeding, a 14-hectare enclosure has been built on private property near Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve. Two animals were released into a cage within the enclosure on 4th October 2007. Both were fitted with transmitters and the gate opened into the main enclosure on 23rd November so that they could come and go. At the end of 2007 they were still being supplied with food. They have been monitored by radio-tracking until transmitters fell off and by motion-activated cameras at the gate and food.</p>
<p>Action 6 Enhance the breeding capacity of Gilbert's Potoroo</p>	<p>The methods to enhance breeding capacity in the last section are still regarded as under trial. If and when they have been proven action will be taken to implement the methods on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>Action 7 Extend the range of Gilbert's Potoroo through translocation of animals to suitable habitat outside Two Peoples Bay.</p>	<p>Bald Island: The translocation of Gilbert's potoroos to Bald Island commenced in 2005 and the population has been steadily growing. During 2007, three animals (a male and a female in August and a female in December) were transferred from Mount Gardner to Bald Island via the captive facility. This brought the total number of animals transferred to 10, completing initial phase of the planned translocation. Six extended monitoring trips and two day trips to the island were completed during the year. A total of 122 person-nights were spent on the island. Monitoring activities mainly comprised trapping and radio-tracking. By the end of the December 2007 field trip, the number of animals known to be alive on the island had reached 15. The goal set in the translocation proposal was to achieve a population of 20 independent animals before potoroos could be removed for other translocations.</p> <p>Norman's Beach enclosure: In 2006 funding through the Saving Our Species program was secured to establish a second mainland population of Gilbert's potoroos by building a fox- and cat-proof enclosure in Waychinicup National Park near Norman's Beach. A project officer, Geoff Young, was employed to carry out the approvals and construction phase of the project. In 2007 the main achievements were the determination of the final alignment and preparation of all the approvals documents. By the end of 2007 these documents had been submitted for Regional Manager sign-off before being forwarded to Perth for final approval. The enclosure construction is still on track for completion by June 2008 ready for fox and cat removal and subsequent introduction of the potoroos in spring.</p>
<p>Action 8 Secure ongoing funding for the</p>	<p>In 2007, the Gilbert's potoroo recovery program received major funding from the Natural Heritage Trust through South Coast NRM,</p>

implementation of the
Recovery Actions

providing staff for maintenance of captive breeding and cross-fostering facilities and operation funds for monitoring the Two Peoples Bay population. Major funding was also received for three projects under the Saving Our Species Program: 1) the Gilbert's potoroo enclosure, 2) the Bald Island translocation and 3) a search for a translocation site for a third mainland population.