



Kia ora and welcome to the September edition of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust's newsletter.

Restoration news

Our new restoration project focussing on the entrance of the coastal track up to, and around, Tinline, is now underway. This project will enhance the visitor experience in the Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP) and provide excellent habitat for our native birds. Rimu, Red Beech and Pigeonwood have been planted for this purpose.



Morning tea at Tinline (Photo credit: Abby Butler)

Predator control news

We have extended our reach further into the ATNP and now check traps along the coast to Awaroa. We manage a total of 541 stoat boxes and 325 self resetting A24 traps and have caught **255 mustelids and 3,575 rats** since thorough records began in 2010. This isn't counting they animals killed by the A24's which don't have a 'body count'.

Recent volunteer recruitment has seen our team increase to 110 to cover this increased trapping effort. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to make such a difference!

The trapping graphic (Appendix 1) highlights the amount of hardware on the ground in the ATNP. ATBT volunteers and Project Janszoon DOC staff spend many hours walking these lines clearing traps. Park wide **over 2000 mustelids and 25,500**

rats have been caught. Our native flora and fauna really benefit from this reduction in predators.



William has success! (Photo credit: Alistair Sheat)

We have just built a new shed in Motueka to store all the gear we need for our additional volunteers. We show appreciation to PlaceMakers Motueka for supporting us with low cost materials, Bruce Reid for allowing the shed on his land, and the capable volunteers who built it for us.



Some of the shed builders – John Wells and Warren Inwood (Photo credit – Bruce Reid)



Biodiversity news

Pateke/Brown Teal

Project Janszoon and DOC released another 72 pateke at Hadfield's Clearing behind the Awaroa estuary in May this year. This brings the total number of birds released to 92. The monitored birds are doing well with some dispersing to other wetlands so keep an eye out for them if you are in this part of the Park.



A Pateke/Brown Teal and her ducklings (Photo credit: NZ Birds Online)

Fungi finds

There are many hidden surprises when you take your time walking in the Park. One of our volunteers took these fantastic photos of fungi and slime mould.



Fungi and slime mould (Photo credit: B Vincenci)

Top row, L-R: Waxcap – Hygrocybe; Velvet Bolete – *Porphyrellus formosus*; *Clavulinopsis corallina rosacea*; Plums and Custard – *Tricholomopsis rutilans*; *Lactarius novae-zelandiae*;

Bottom row, L-R: Grey Knight – *Tricholoma terreum*; Wolf's milk – *Lycogala epidendrum*; A gilled mushroom – Agaricales; A gilled mushroom – Agaricales; *Cantharellus wellingtonensis*.

Community Connection

We had the pleasure of attending a recent hui at Te Awhina marae in Motueka. Many groups got together to share their passion, strengthen relationships and discuss how we can really collaborate with the management of the ATNP in the future.



Hui attendees at Te Awhina marae (Photo Credit: Project Janszoon)

'Heart of the Park' grant application lodged

We are currently awaiting the outcome of our most recent NZ Lotteries Grant Board application. This 'Heart of the Park' project will see the number of A24's we have in operation double from 325 to 650. Extending our A24 network will create a larger safe haven for our native fauna.



Existing and proposed A24 coverage (Image credit: A Macalister)



Lift Off Abel Tasman

We are excited to be part of the upcoming [Lift Off Abel Tasman](#) event. Organisers have selected the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust as one of three conservation groups to receive a share of the profits from Sunday's event. We will be part of showcasing the Abel Tasman region and any money we receive will go towards our 'Heart of the Park' A24 trapping project (mentioned above). The Tasman Bay Guardians and Project Janszoon are the other conservation groups to be supported. Early Bird tickets are available until 1st October.



Would you like to donate?

We now have a 'Give-a-Little' page set up to make donating to our cause a little easier. Please go to the 'Give-a-Little' page and search 'Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust' or click on this link: [Givealittle - Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust](#) and follow the instructions.



Trustee changes

We have two changes to our Trust Board:

We farewell John Richards. Fortunately, John remains a very active member of our volunteer group so we don't lose his experience and passion. We thank him greatly for his input.

We welcome Bruce Whitwell. Bruce has a strong family and personal connection to the ATNP and he brings new enthusiasm with him to the Trustee role.

Acknowledgments

Our positive conservation gains wouldn't be achievable without support from the following entities so we give them thanks:

- our local commercial operators who support us with our Birdsong Levy and volunteer transport into the Park
- other full and associate members
- Pic's Peanut Butter for our A24 bait
- NZ Lotteries Grants Board
- DOC Community Fund
- all recent donors

We readily acknowledge the support we receive from both DOC and Project Janszoon. We continue to build on our positive relationship which allows us all to undertake a vast amount of work and improve the visitor experience of the ATNP.

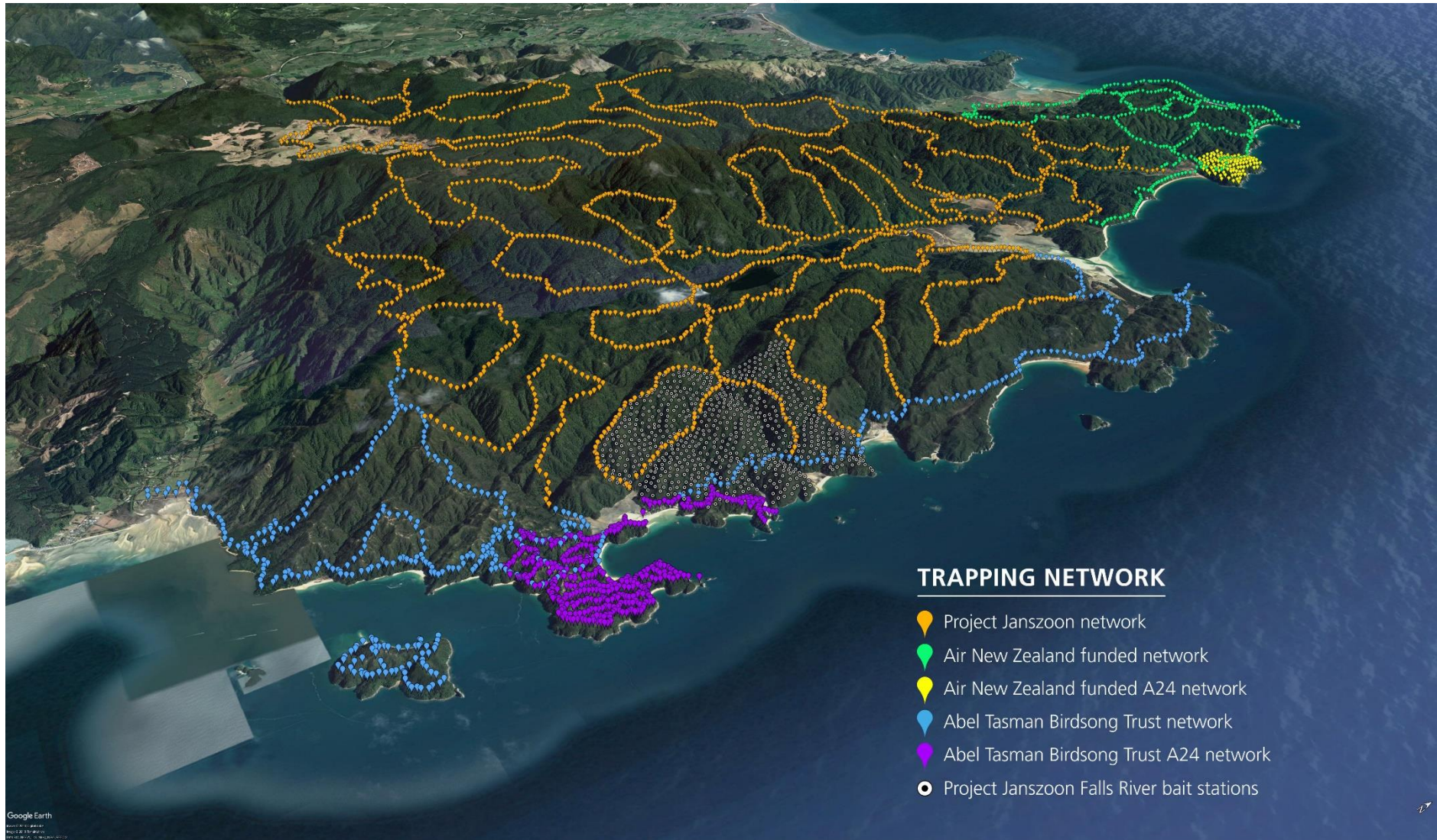
Thanks to all our volunteers – with your assistance we are removing pests, restoring ecosystems and giving our native species a fighting chance.

Abby and the ATBT Trustees

Our Vision:

The forests and beaches of Abel Tasman are once again filled with the birdsong that awakens and delights visitors.

Kia whakaoho te mauri o te Ata-hapara. Kia rongo, Kia Kite, Ki te reo koro tui o Te Tai tapu



Appendix 1 - Abel Tasman National Park Trapping Graphic (Image courtesy of Project Janszoon)