



Kia ora and welcome to the August edition of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust's newsletter. This is produced to give an update on our recent activities.

## Predator Control News

### Trapping Network

We currently manage a network of 542 stoat boxes along the coast from Marahau to Awaroa. We also extend up to Holyoakes Clearing on the Inland Track. We are pleased to have completed our recent Lotteries-funded 'Heart of the Park' project and now have a total of 650 self re-setting [A24 traps](#) installed. This intensive trapping network does an excellent job protecting our precious native wildlife.



A24 coverage for the completed 'Heart of the Park' project. The red and pink areas combine to give 565 hectares of protected coastal bush habitat (*Image credit: A Macalister*)

A total of **291 mustelids** and **5,260 rats** have been removed from our traps since October 2010. However, it's fair to say the total kills will be much higher as our A24 traps don't have a 'body count'. We know they are killing rats as we have counters which record strikes and we also monitor the gas usage... one gas cannister can deliver 24 strikes!

### Beech Mast event

[Seed sampling and temperature analysis](#) has shown that New Zealand is experiencing one of the biggest [beech mast events](#) in more than 40 years. This results in exceptionally heavy seed loads in beech forests,

and rat numbers in the Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP) have exploded as a result of increased food availability. We have responded to this increase by doubling our trap checking efforts. We're hoping this intensified response will reduce predator numbers sufficiently to offer protection during the upcoming nesting season.

[Appendix 1](#) illustrates the extent of the increase in rats caught over the recent months.



New volunteers are instructed how to use the 'Walk-the-line' trapping app out in the field. Data entered during a trap round will automatically upload to the DOC Trapping Manager where all the ATNP trapping data is stored. (*Photo credit: Robyn Janes*)



A recently installed A24 trap doing its job in the Moncrieff Scenic Reserve. This carcass will not last long with weka around as rats seem to be like candyfloss to them! (*Photo credit: Alistair Sheat*)



## Restoration news

In June we planted 300 trees alongside the coastal track up to, and around, the Tinline area. This project focuses on enhancing the visitor experience and providing excellent habitat for our native birds. This [great video](#) explains the project in more detail. We were fortunate to have a helpful team from [Redwood Cider](#) join us as part of their environmental initiative.



One of our volunteers enjoying their recent day out tree planting (Photo credit: Abby Butler)

Thanks to the [Abel Tasman Tree Collective](#) and [Trees That Count](#) for donating the eco-sourced native trees, and to [Abel Tasman Charters](#) for donating the fertiliser tablets, protectors and stakes. We are pleased to be using the local [EmGuard](#) biodegradable cardboard tree protectors to reduce our use of plastic in the environment.



**REDWOOD CIDER CO**

## Biodiversity news

### Pāteke/brown teal

To date [Project Janszoon](#) have released a total of 178 pāteke/brown teal into the park. The majority of these birds are remaining around the Hadfield's Clearing release site and are still using the supplementary feeders. Another successful breeding season will confirm that this is a sustainable population. Things are looking positive!



Its great to have the tamariki involved in the releases of pāteke into Hadfield's Clearing (Photo credit: Project Janszoon)

### Kākā



A banded Kākā in the tree tops (Photo credit: Doug Robinson)

Six Kākā chicks were successfully fledged in the ATNP this year. This is the first time in decades that kākā have bred in the park. In the coming

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months these birds and their parents will be joined by 25 juvenile Kākā, soon to be released into the Bark Bay area. This is an extension to the reintroduction programme managed by Project Janszoon. We can't wait to have these wonderful birds present (and making mischief!) in the coastal area of the ATNP. Project Janszoon has asked for our help to get the message out that these birds need to be left to be wild and people should not feed them. Kākā need to eat a natural diet to be healthy and they are good at finding their own food like berries, seeds, honeydew and nectar. As these birds were raised in captivity supplementary food will be provided initially as they adapt to living in the wild. If you do see visitors trying to feed them please ask them not to.

## *How can you help?*

### *Join as a member*

We have two annual membership options available. Please email Abby if you would like to know more: [atbirdsong1@gmail.com](mailto:atbirdsong1@gmail.com)



Our new plaques will be delivered to our full members in the coming months. You too could have one of these....

### *Donate*

Please go to our '[Give-a-Little](#)' page, search 'Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust' and follow the instructions. Pass this on to friends you think might like to make a donation to our cause!

### *Caps for purchase*

We have these great supporters caps available for purchase. They are \$20 each and we offer free postage on orders of three or more. Email [atbirdsong1@gmail.com](mailto:atbirdsong1@gmail.com) to order.



Available in blue or black with an adjustable back so one size fits most

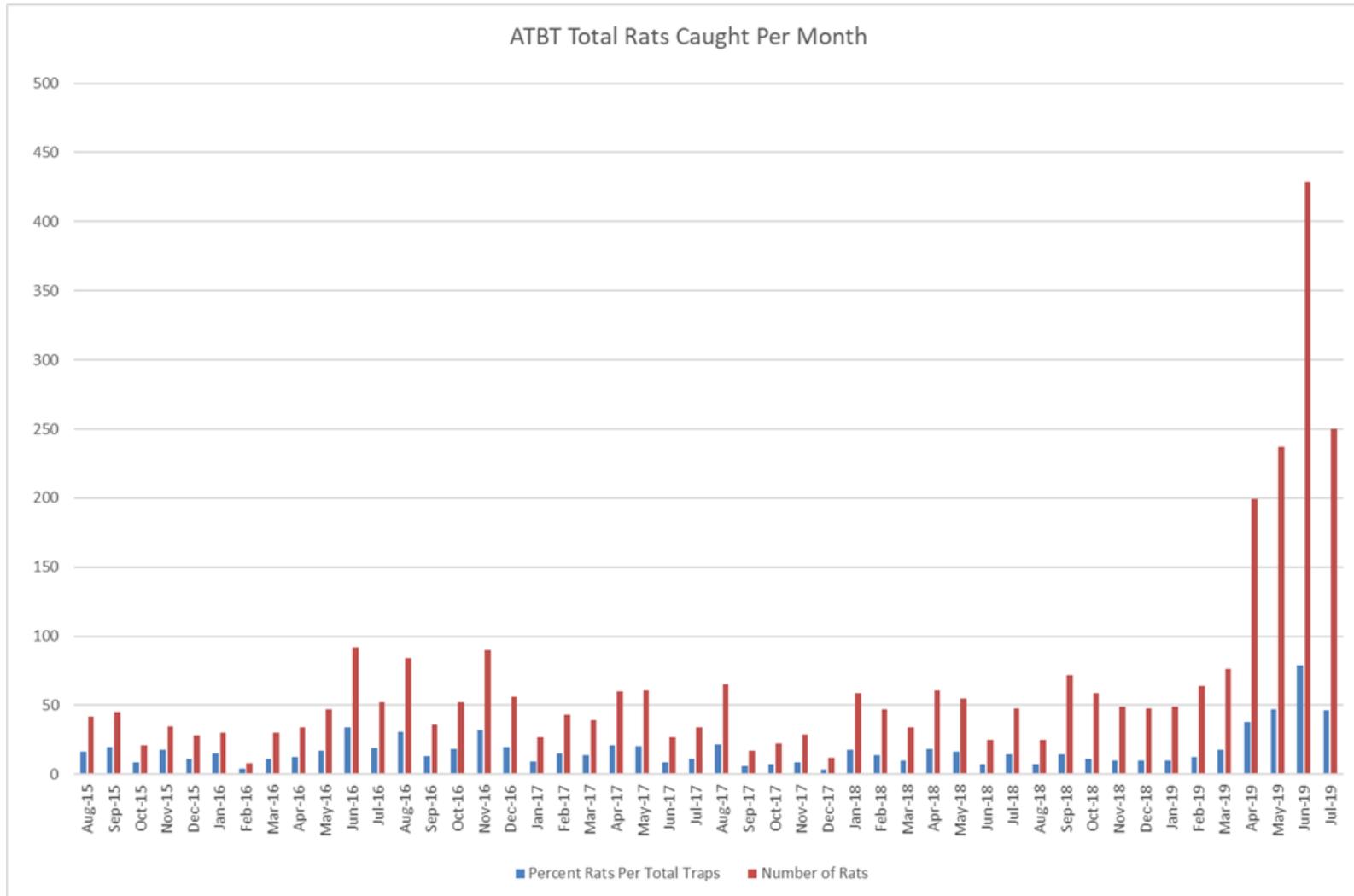
### *Acknowledgments from our Trustees*

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

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

The biggest thanks is reserved for our amazing volunteers – with your assistance we are removing pests, restoring ecosystems and giving our native species a fighting chance!



Appendix 1 - Rat numbers increased dramatically this winter due to the beech mast event. (Image credit: Alistair Sheat)