



## 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 rongō, Kia Kite, Ki te reo koro tui o Te Tai tapu*

Kia ora everyone,

Even with Covid-19 reducing our efforts this year we have contributed close to 10,000 volunteer hours to the conservation effort in the Abel Tasman National Park. This is testament to the Trust's strong focus on positive connection – both to community and the ecosystem.



Our smiling volunteers are the soul of our Trust (Photo credit: A Butler)

We round out this interesting year with the awesome news that we have removed well over 40,000 rats from the ecosystem. This is an amazing joint effort by our volunteers, DOC and Project Janszoon.

There was some excellent national [media coverage](#) celebrating this achievement too.

We give huge thanks to those who have transported volunteers into the park over the last few months. This includes [Aquataxi](#), [Sea Shuttle](#), [Wilson's](#), DOC and even private boat owners. This

contribution during trying times is really appreciated.

## Predator Control News

Our intensive trapping network utilises both wooden trapboxes and self-resetting Goodnature A24s to protect our precious native wildlife.

Our volunteers have removed **356** mustelids and **6834** rats from the trapboxes we manage.



The Erazz lure we use in our stoat traps (Photo credit: A Butler)

## A24 Network News

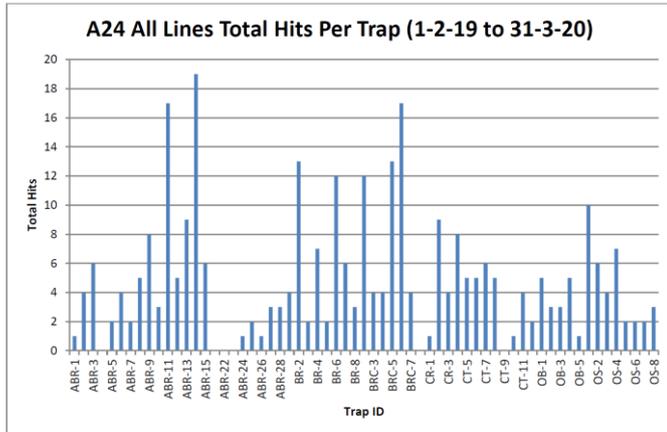
A total of 565 hectares of coastal bush habitat is protected by our network of 650 A24 traps. We alternate between Pics Peanut Butter and chocolate lure. Both pretty tasty options!



One of our A24 traps in situ (Photo credit: A Butler)



We don't have a 'body-count' like we do with our trapboxes. This lack of feedback can be frustrating at times. One way to record trap 'kills' is by using a strike counter which records each time the trap fires.



Graph indicating variance in strike counter rates (Graph credit: A Sheat)

One trap location recorded 19 strikes – we assume that is 19 kills for this 14-month period. [Our latest trapping report](#) and other news is available on our website.

## Biodiversity News

### Predator-Free Islands

Recent footprint tracking monitoring on the larger islands (Tonga, Adele/Motuareronui and Fisherman/Motuareroiti) has confirmed they remain predator free.



Adele/Motuarero-nui and Fisherman/Motuarero-iti Islands feeling the love (Photo credit: O Singleton-Wards)

A dedicated ATNP biosecurity ranger is working to keep them that way!

### Birds!

There has been some successful pāteke breeding in the park this year. A self-sustaining population is the aim and this is a great start.

The Bark Bay/Wairima kākā were also exhibiting some breeding behaviour too – so far, no success. All the practice does bode well for next season though!



A lovely brood of pāteke ducklings at Awaroa! (Photo Credit: H Wollenweber)

We're still seeking robin/toutouwai observations. Some have been spotted close to the coast, at 100m altitude. These individuals may be related to the birds we transferred to Pitt Head a couple of years ago



Keep an eye out for these manu! (Photo Credit: D Wilson)



Weka are present in high numbers throughout the park. They are certainly appreciating the sustained predator control.



This weka was looking for lunch! (Photo Credit: A Butler)

As well as the usual control of mammalian predators, control of the wilding pines and weeds is also ongoing. Dead pines can be seen from the water, testament to the hard work of DOC staff and contractors.



Spot the invaders! Three unwelcome species spotted along the coastal track recently (Photo credit: A Butler)

## Trustee News

We have recently farewelled Stew Robertson from our Trustee board. He will be able to utilise his exceptional skills as the new DOC Marine Reserves ranger in the Abel Tasman.

Have governance experience and want to join a passionate crew? We are looking for a couple of new Trustees. Email if you would like more details [atbirdsong1@gmail.com](mailto:atbirdsong1@gmail.com)

## Donate to make a difference

Please go to the ['Give-a-Little'](#) website, 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! Every contribution assists us greatly.

## Acknowledgments

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

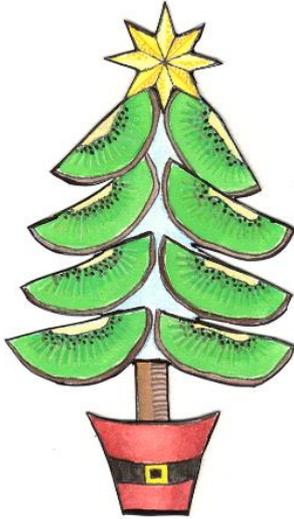
- the local commercial operators who support us with our annual Birdsong Levy and volunteer transport into the Park
- all our full and associate members
- Pic's Peanut Butter for our A24 bait
- NZ Lotteries Grants Board and the Moncrieff Family Trust for funding our 'Heart of the Park' project
- DOC Community Fund for funding the coordinator role
- All recent donors
- The Department of Conservation and Project Janszoon for their partnership support

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



We wish you all a safe festive season!

Abby and the Trustees



*(Image credit: A Butler)*

*Whakarongo ki te tangi a te kākā*

*Whakarongo ki te tangi a te pāteke*

*Ka tangi hoki ahau*

*Tihei mauri ora!*

*No reira kia ora tatou katoa*