



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 rongu, Kia Kite, Ki te reo koro tui o Te Tai tapu

Kia ora everyone,

Since our last newsletter we have had another lockdown in NZ! We had our systems in place, so volunteers were aware of what it meant for our operations and had more patience. Fortunately, predator numbers have been low, which was confirmed by recent Footprint Tracking Tunnel monitoring, so that is a big relief.

As always, we give a huge thanks to those who have transported volunteers into the park over the last few months. This includes [Aquataxi](#), [Sea Shuttle](#), [Wilsons](#), DOC and even private boat owners.

We have recently upgraded our signage. The map on the left of our new sign highlights the scope of our coastal trapping efforts. Visitors are regularly seen reading this on their way into the park.



Updated sign at the entrance to the park (Photo credit: A Sheat)

Predator Control News

Volunteers check 580 trap boxes and 650 Goodnature A24 traps which protect our precious native wildlife from mustelids and rats.

A grand total of 385 mustelids and 7532 rats have been removed from our traps since October 2010. Predator numbers are generally low during the winter months picking up to peak in spring and summer.

Recent footprint tracking tunnel monitoring showed a 10% rat tracking rate in our intensively trapped 'Heart of the Park' block. This compares to a much higher rat tracking rate in a block behind Awaroa where there is currently no rat control. Results like these highlight the impact trapping can have on an ecosystem. More specific graphics and maps can be found in our latest predator control report on our website.

Volunteer Voice

One of our awesome Line Leaders has recently passed on his baton and he sent through the following debrief - love the commitment even when wet muddy feet are a given!

"Just wanted to share the results we've had in the 3 years 2 months checking this line of 33 traps.

6 STOATS + 2 WEASELS. 410 RATS.

64 CHECKS. 5 checks no catch. So of the 59 checks that caught, it averaged out at 6.9 rats per check.

64x wet muddy feet.

We have had more sightings of fern birds in the Onetahuti wetland along with three recent sightings of Tomtits which we've never seen before"

Our volunteers get to see first hand the change predator control can have on bird species. We thank them all.



Biodiversity News

Restoration

Our Tinline restoration project is ticking along well. There has been plenty of spring bracken growth so a team will be heading in to release our trees soon.

The trees we plant will improve the food source for birds as well as improve the visitor experience in the park. Thanks to [Abel Tasman Tree Collective](#) and [Trees that Count](#) for funding the trees for the upcoming season.



We love our committed planters! (Photo credit: A Butler)

Pāteke/Brown Teal

Twenty-one precious pāteke/brown teal were recently released at Anchorage Lagoon. This was part of the Project Janszoon release programme and boosts the number of released birds to 358! An [informative article](#) on the project was written post release.

Our volunteers undertake predator control around this release site. Both wooden trap boxes and A24 traps control stoats and rats.

Our volunteers will also help with the supplementary feeding over the next few months. The birds will have access to the same food as they

were eating at the Peacock Springs breeding facility - making it a 'soft release'.



Happy volunteers (Photo credit: A Butler)

Wilding Pine Control.

Visitors will see dead-looking trees like the ones in the pic below when they travel into the park. These pines are left standing, rather than felled, as it stops a lightwell forming where weeds can take over. Native seedlings have a chance to germinate and grow and will dominate when the tree eventually falls and rots away.



Dead standing pines on the coastline (Photo credit: A Butler)



Adele Island/Motuareronui

Another clear round of tracking tunnels means that Adele/Motuareronui is still predator free. We have bolstered our trapping efforts along the adjacent coast to form a barrier to pests that might like to swim across.

The short call of a saddleback/tieke was recorded on Adele/Motuareronui recently. We have uploaded it to the [Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust's Facebook page](#). There are a couple left on the island and we are unsure why the other released birds did not manage to thrive. The other bird species, especially bellbird/koromiko and South Island robin/toutouwai are certainly thriving.



Saddleback/tieke (Photo credit: D Buckton)

We are still seeking robin/toutouwai observations. Some birds have been spotted closer to the coast, at 160m altitude. These individuals may be related to the birds we transferred to Pitt Head a couple of years ago. If you hear or see any, Email atbirdsong1@gmail.com with details.

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.

Buy a hat to show your support

We have some cool caps available for purchase! As well as being a great memento of your time in this beautiful part of New Zealand, they also raise awareness of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and the work we do in the special Abel Tasman National Park.

They have a handy adjustable strap at the back so one size fits all. \$20 each (+postage), buy three or more and get free delivery. Local drop-off can be arranged too.

Please email atbirdsong1@gmail.com to order in time for Christmas.



Blue and black caps available (Photo credit: A Butler)

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
- The visitors to the Park who always show an interest in what we do and contribute a small part of their ticket fare to our restoration work
- All our full and associate members

Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust/Te Poari Koro Tui Newsletter

December 2021

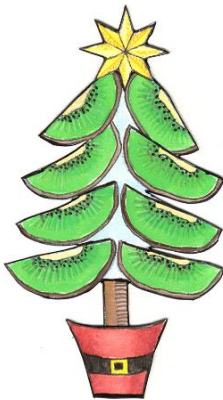


- Pic's Peanut Butter for our A24 bait
- NZ Lotteries Grants Board and the Moncrieff Family Trust for supporting our 'Heart of the Park' project
- DOC Community Fund for funding the coordinator role
- All recent donors
- DOC and Project Janszoon for their excellent partnership support
- Abel Tasman Tree Collective
- Trees that Count.

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