



## 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*

Kia ora everyone,

Although visitor numbers are down in the Abel Tasman National Park, there have been lots of 'locals' visiting this little piece of paradise! Our volunteers have had really great feedback when out and about. We are proud of the Trust's strong focus on positive connection – both to community and the ecosystem.



Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our Trust  
*(Photo credit: A Butler)*

We thank our old and welcome our new supporters – check them all out on our [website](#)!

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. This contribution during trying times is really appreciated.

## Health and Safety News

We carry out our work in some pretty spectacular terrain. In order to get the best trapping coverage some traplines can be steep in places.

To keep our amazing C-Line volunteers safe we recently upgraded some of our in situ 'volunteer support'. We replaced some heavy chain with rope to DOC engineering standard. Thanks to Quality Equipment for donating the rope!



Chain be gone! *(Photo credit: A Butler)*

## Predator Control News

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

Volunteers check a whopping **576 trap boxes** fortnightly and **650 A24 traps** monthly. (Note that ATBT volunteers also check traps up at Canaan. But data from these traps is reported in Project Janszoon's total. We're working on getting this data included in our stats soon!).

We're proud to report that a total of **374 mustelids** and **7073 rats** have been removed from ATBT traps since October 2010.



We've also hit another great trapping milestone with our partners – the removal of over 2000 mustelids from the park.

The combined trapping effort of ATBT, Project Janszoon and DOC has removed **2360 mustelids** and **42465 rats** from the ecosystem – imagine the damage of these sharp teeth would be doing if they were still present!



We use blue triangles to indicate where our traps are located. Each trap has its own unique identifier (*Photo credit: A Butler*)

## A24 Network Details

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



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

Goodnature, who manufacture the A24, have been in business for 15 years and we were selected to

receive 15 new traps to celebrate this milestone. We truly appreciate this extra support and these traps will be used to bolster our coverage.



Each red triangle is an A24 trap. We certainly have intensive coverage in this part of the park. (*Graphic credit: A Sheat*)

More specific details can be found in [our latest predator control report](#) on our website.

## Wasp Wipeout!

We have been monitoring wasp numbers recently and soon we will complete our 2021 wasp control programme.

We are grateful to the local [‘Wasp Wipeout’](#) campaign for funding some replacement hardware for our area. We use the protein-based bait [VespeX](#), which contains the insecticide fipronil. It targets only wasps which are attracted to the protein. It is not attractive to bees or kākā so it is safe to use in the park.

Many nests can be controlled from a single bait station as wasps take it back to their nests to feed



to their larvae. As well as making the park a much nicer place to visit, reducing wasp numbers benefits our native birds as there is less competition for food such as honeydew. Our volunteers are also kept safer during their trapping rounds.



One of our wasp bait stations (Photo credit: A Butler)

## Biodiversity News

### Restoration

Our major restoration project has been very successful so far. 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 donating all the trees to date.

A great team has recently been in and released the trees that were being swamped by bracken. Maintenance like this is a big part of our project.



There are trees in here somewhere! (Photo credit: A Butler)

### Predator- Free Islands

Recent footprint tracking monitoring on the larger islands (Tonga, Adele/Motuareronui and Fisherman/Motuareroiti) has confirmed they remain predator free. A dedicated ATNP biosecurity ranger is working to keep them that way!



Adele/Motuareronui and Fisherman/Motuareroiti (Photo credit: A Butler)

### Birds!

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. Email [atbirdsong1@gmail.com](mailto:atbirdsong1@gmail.com) with details.



South Island Robin/Toutouwai checking out our work (Photo credit: M Forward)

Project Janszoon, iwi and DOC have now released a total of 15 who into three rivers in the park. It is hoped that these birds will become part of a self-sustaining population.



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!

Abby and the Trustees

Keep an eye out for these manu! (Photo Credit: L Heaton)

## ***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.

*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*

## ***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
- DOC and Project Janszoon for their partnership support