



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,

We've had a great summer working to keep predator numbers low, maintaining our plantings and completing our annual wasp control. The important news is that a grand total of 527 mustelids and 11,173 rats have been removed from our traps since October 2010. Quite the milestone!

The recent February round of footprint tracking tunnel monitoring confirms what we have been finding in our traps – rat numbers are low. As a result stoat catches have also been low recently.

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. Scheduling services has been difficult with low tourist numbers, so we appreciate their willingness to transport volunteers through this difficult period.

Volunteer Voice

Our volunteer voice celebrates a couple of our invaluable volunteers, Andrew and Laine, who have been with ATBT for 12 years! They have been involved with planting, weeding, trapping, trapline installation, bird releases, penguin research, wasp control and they also lead a trapping team.

"We have many highlights - seeing the gorse gone from the beaches, being involved with bird releases, but probably the steady return of birdsong to the park which is a credit to all the trust's volunteers. We enjoy all aspects of what we

do in the park knowing we (along with everyone else) are making a bit of a difference"

We are incredibly grateful for their (rather difficult to quantify) input.



Fur seal pups bathing on the rocks at Motuareronui / Adele Island (Photo credit: L Harding)

Predator Control News

Wasp Wipeout

In February, the trigger threshold was reached to begin our 2022 'Wasp Wipeout' control programme.

We are grateful to the local ['Wasp Wipeout'](#) campaign, administered by the Tasman Environment Trust, for funding some replacement hardware and bait.

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.



Wasps taking the bait! (Photo credit: Delwyn Dickey)

Data Management

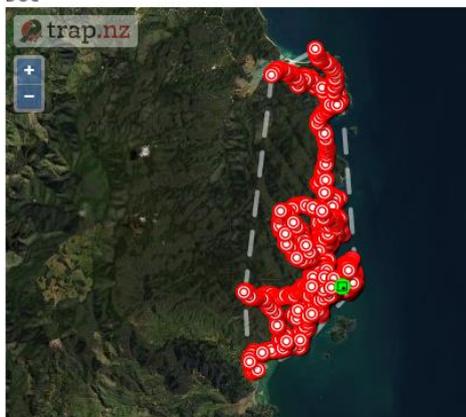
The way we store and retrieve our results has changed recently with a transfer to the trap.nz information management system. We have had a few teething issues with it but in the long run it will allow real-time data to be uploaded whilst in the field using a phone app. Analysis and reporting is done via desktop.



Abel Tasman Bird Song

View Edit Members Project categories

DOC



New user interface for data management (Image credit: Trap.NZ)

Biodiversity News

Restoration

There has been impressive growth in the trees planted as part of our Tinline restoration project. We recently spent a couple of days pulling bracken to allow the light into our planting pockets. The trees are loving the mulch the pulled bracken provides.

Thanks to [Abel Tasman Tree Collective](#) and [Trees that Count](#) for contributing to this project.



One of the first beech trees we planted shows impressive growth (Photo credit: L Butler)

Pāteke / Brown Teal

The Project Jansoon pāteke/brown teal translocation project is now complete with over 350 birds released. Birds have survived well in the park and even spread outside its boundary, with a bird seen at Wainui in the north and Otuwhero in the south. The supplementary feeding and intensive predator control has resulted in successful breeding and a high survival rate. Keep an eye out for birds when you are visiting.



Toutouwai / South Island Robin

An inquisitive Toutouwai / South Island Robin was recently photographed in the Moncrieff Scenic Reserve around our Observation Stream A24 trapline. This is the first time in years that they have been reported in this part of the Park. Our intensive rat trapping will certainly be helping with survival, and we hope it will stick around this coastal area for visitors to experience!



A friendly Toutouwai helping to check an A24 (Photo credit: B Kitson)

Kākā

There has been successful kākā breeding this season with eight chicks fledged from three nests. Females were fitted with transmitters to locate the nests which were all in hollow tree trunks. The nests were protected with additional traps and monitored with cameras. Check out this [video](#) of a hard-working mother kākā on a nest!



Kākā have had a successful breeding season (Photo credit: R Bollongino)

Whio / Blue Duck

Ten juvenile whio were recently released at two sites deep in the interior of the park. These birds are helping to boost the remnant whio population. A wild bird immediately joined the released birds on the water at one site. We hope they will pair up and hold a territory together.

In January, during an annual river survey, one of the [females released in 2018](#) was seen with some ducklings. This is a great indication that the project is set to succeed!



Whio in the Abel Tasman (Photo credit: R Bollongino)

Wilding Pine Control

Wilding pine management in the park has recently been transferred to DOC.

In 2010 ATBT recognised that wilding pines have no place in the park, and we set about eradicating them. In the preceding years we partnered with DOC and Project Janszoon to get the initial control of the coning trees completed. Now in the maintenance phase, the project has been signed over to DOC as part of Project Janszoon's ['Tomorrow Accord'](#) process. This will ensure invasive conifers do not re-establish in the park. We're proud to have been part of this long-term project.



This ridgeline near Anchorage Hut is almost clear of the dead spars. (Image credit: A MacAlister).

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 donate 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
- 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
- Pic's Peanut Butter for our A24 lure
- NZ Lotteries Grants Board and the Moncrieff 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!

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