



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

Education and Advocacy

Education Resources available for schools

We have been working with Project Janszoon and DOC staff to develop and install some educational resources in the Abel Tasman huts. We have also included the Marahau Education Centre as a site as it is popular with school groups. Each box has carefully selected activities specific for its location.

Abby and Marieann helped promote these [education boxes](#) at a recent Tasman wide 'Environmental Educators Expo'. We had really positive feedback at the event and we look forward to hearing from teachers (and tamariki) once they have utilised the education boxes on their adventures into the Abel Tasman!



Abby and Amme at the Environmental Educators Expo (Photo Credit: M Keenan)

Tinline Nature Walk

Our goal is to enhance the Tinline Nature Walk so that it becomes an educational feature for visitors. Our first phase has been completed with 25 fantastic new plant ID signs installed. Signs include the english, te reo and latin plant name as well as a description about their form and interesting historic uses.



An example of the new signs around the Tinline Nature Walk. (Image credit - A McCall)

Mana Whaitake - Focus on the Environment

We attended the 2024 Mana Whaitake event at Kaiteriteri to educate tamariki (and their parents!) about the local environment. There were 6 environmental groups there offering a range of activities and our stall focused on predators and their impact on our native species. Our activities included:

- 'Predator Web' where they had to use a ball to hit the predators pictured on a board to score points
- 'Footprint Matching' where they matched the footprints to animals. Some of them were quite tricky.



It was rewarding to see the tamariki engaged throughout the day. Many were already very knowledgeable which was a boost!



Abby and Sarah got lots of tamariki involved (Photo credit – A McCall)

Predator Control

Trapping Update

Volunteers have been busy trapping with a total of 592 mustelids and 14,229 rats removed from our wooden box traps since October 2010.

We also have a network of Goodnature A24 traps in place. We are starting to utilise some technology to record kill data from these traps so we can better understand their performance.



Ryan checking an A24 on South Head (Image credit – P Lucas)

We received 20 additional A24 traps to bolster our existing network. These were donated by [Wine, Art](#)

[and Wilderness](#) and they will take their clients to check one when close to Medlands. This is real conservation in action!



Abby, Zane and Pete after installing the WAW A24 (Image credit – E Menzies)

Moving the people!

We give a huge thanks to those who have transported volunteers into the park over the last six months. There are a lot of people to move at times. This includes [Aquataxi](#), [Sea Shuttle](#), [Wilson's](#), and DOC. We couldn't do it without this support!

Give a Trap - donation opportunity

[Give a Trap®](#) is all about connecting people that want to help, with the people that need it. Through their website they organise the purchase and supply of the trap directly to us. Check them out.



Supporting the Predator Free 2050 mission (Image – GAT website)



Biodiversity News

Report a Robin Campaign



Image credit - Project Janszoon

We're supporting Project Janszoon in a great citizen science project. South Island Robin / toutouwai are making a comeback in the Abel Tasman which is very exciting. The 'Report a Robin' campaign runs from the 6th to the 31st of January 2025 and is a way of getting involved in local conservation by reporting all sightings. Every one counts! If you do spot one you can report it via - [Project Janszoon - report a robin](#) or the Abel Tasman app.

Restoration

Wilding Pine Busters

We have a newly established team tackling some of the pockets of wilding pines in the Abel Tasman. The following is from Sarah, a Trustee and our treasurer, who is leading the charge around the Stillwell area:

'There are a lot of small trees in some open areas and we need to stop them from spreading further. A lot of hard work has been done by ATBT, DOC and Project Janszoon but the seedlings need to be controlled or the progress will be lost. If the pine trees take over on the open ridges (which are the

main areas where they are regrowing) they will then provide a seed source for further spread. It's a real 'stitch in time saves nine' situation - the more young trees we remove the less of a future problem we'll have. It's hard work and off-track but rewarding - hundreds of kills in a day!'

If you'd like to join this team then contact us: atbirdsong1@gmail.com



Great views from the ridge! (Photo credit – S Brewer)

Our Planting Project

The trees we have planted along the coastal track into Tinline are looking fantastic. There is still a substantial amount of ongoing maintenance required to keep the bracken and weeds suppressed though. Fortunately, we have a great team willing to help with this!



The team at work! (Photo credit –A McCall)



Thanks to [Trees that Count](#) for funding the native trees for this project. The trees we plant are all grown from eco-sourced seed which is very important for the Abel Tasman ecosystem.

Our Volunteers

The health and safety of our volunteers is very important. Trustee Biff, with some online assistance, created this apt ode to share:

An ode to ATBT volunteers

Read the ATBT safety document in advance
Check the weather first – not just a glance.
Wear your PPE, it's wise and smart,
Always go with a buddy, play it safe from the start.
If you're alone, keep your phone near,
A PLB, too, will help ease the fear.
Stay back from wildlife, give them their space,
Be sunsmart outdoors, embrace nature's grace.
A first aid kit's handy, so pack it right,
Take your time on the trails, enjoy the sight.
Use your gear safely, don't rush the pace,
And most of all, have fun in this beautiful place!



Our volunteers are invested in what we do! Trustees Marieann (pictured above left) and Biff are leading the upgrade of the Tinline Nature Walk. (Photo credit –A McCall)

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 business 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
- All recent donors
- DOC and Project Janszoon for their excellent partnership support
- 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