

Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 1st July 2017 – 30th June 2018

Kim McGlashen (Chairman)

I present the eleventh annual report for the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust.

The year started with a strategic review of the ATBST operations and identity within the Abel Tasman national park environs.

Questions to address were:

1. How do we keep the momentum going?
2. What motivates people to get on board?
3. What is the future identity and purpose of our organisation?

I am pleased to report that during the year the predator control work of the Trust has continued to grow into new areas and this has been fundamentally driven by our expanding base of enthusiastic volunteers. The increased activity has been well supported by our part time coordinator (Abby Butler) and our internal organisation structure has been revamped to allow more autonomy from our line leaders and their teams.

An additional shed for supplies was built by volunteers in Queen Victoria Street, Motueka. This supply depot makes it easier for volunteers to pick up their kit when leaving from Kaiteriteri rather than travelling to the Marahau depot.

Governance and Acknowledgements

The trustees as at 30 June 2018 were: Kim McGlashen (Chair), Alistair Sheat (Treasurer), Darryl Wilson, Stewart Robertson, Allan Barker, John Campbell, and Aneika Young.

John Richards resigned as a trustee in March 2018 but continues an active role as a line leader and chairman of the Operations Committee. Bruce Whitwell has been nominated as a trustee.

Trustee Appointment Panel - Richard Fowler (QC), Pam Holyoake, Chris Golding (DOC), Darryl Wilson

Other Responsibilities:

Part-time coordinator and Minute secretary – Abby Butler

Treasurer – Alistair Sheat

Volunteer Co-ordinator – Karen Griffiths

Operations Committee Chairman – John Richards

Key sponsors that have generously contributed to our activities were again the NZ Lottery Grants Board, and the commercial operators. We also received a significant grant from the DOC Community Fund to fund a part-time paid coordinator over three years. Other financial support was received from the TDC Foreshore Committee to complete the removal of wilding pines at Glasgow's beach and also the control of grevillea and cotoneaster behind Torrent Bay township.

Operations Review

Rodents: Installation of a new A24 trap network known as the "Torrent Bay Extension" was completed by Allan Barker and team in February. This helps protect over 120 hectares extending from Pitt Head through Anchorage and the Torrent Bay township to Frenchmans. This was made possible with a grant from the Lottery Grants Board Environment and Heritage Fund and support from Project Janszoon. We also took full ownership and maintenance responsibility of the 205 A24 traps on Pitt Head from Project Janszoon. ATBST now manages a network of over 320 of these re-setting traps.

Stoats: During the year we took over management of the Torrent Bay to Awaroa trapline of 134 boxes. ATBST volunteers now maintain a trapping network of 517 boxes in the coastal area of the Abel Tasman National Park. These contain 743 DOC type-150 traps and 84 DOC type-200 traps.

Adele Island Bio-security: ATBST volunteers maintain the traps and monitoring network with the objective of maintaining the pest free status of the island. The brodifacoum poisoning operation was completed by DOC in the winter months and monitoring indicates that mice eradication has been successful. Further boater's bait stations have been purchased by the ATBST and made available at Nelson and Motueka marinas in a project led by local school groups.

Wasps: Allan Barker and assistants were again involved in the annual war on wasps using bait stations around the Torrent Bay township, Boundary Bay and coastal strip. This year funding assistance was received from Tasman Environmental Trust and the Torrent Bay residents association.

Possums: An annual wax-tag survey for possum activity is one of the Trust projects. When hot-spots are identified possum traps are introduced to that area to reduce numbers.

Restoration: Volunteers assisted Helen Lindsay (Project Janszoon) with various planting initiatives along the coastal margins and inlets.

Summary

It is difficult to single out individuals for their contributions but collectively the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and its volunteers are the face of community involvement within the national park. Each year we take on and achieve more. I believe the organisation behind the scenes has taken a step forward this year with the formal establishment of an Operations sub- committee.

We continue to receive funding support and strive to deliver measurable gains for the park in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Project Janszoon. The park took a hammering this year from cyclones Fehi and Gita and the DOC team deserves full credit for the resources that they have engaged to repair the damage.

Once again I thank the trustees and all our volunteers and supporters for their contribution to the improvement of the Abel Tasman National Park. We also rely on the support we receive from our commercial operators moving teams and gear into and out of the park as well as the technical support from the Department of Conservation staff. Special thanks to Bruce Reid for providing a site for our new depot in Motueka.