



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

ABEL TASMAN BIRDSONG TRUST DONATIONS FLY IN FROM LOS ANGELES

A recent wedding in the United States has resulted in substantial private donations totalling \$600 to boost the efforts of Department of Conservation and commercial operators helping fund the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust.

The couple who married met when the groom was working as a sea kayak guide in Abel Tasman National Park where his future wife was visiting from the US. He says that guests who insisted on giving a present at the wedding in Los Angeles were asked to donate to the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust instead. "In effect, giving something back to the area that has given us so much." The couple's long term plan is to return and become involved with the National Park again.

The aim of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust is to improve the environment of the Park to increase the chances of native bird survival so the forests and beaches of the Park are filled with birdsong. Birdsong Trust Chairperson, Kim McGlashen, says "The Birdsong Trust has a dedicated group of volunteers who are actively working to improve the visitor experience within the Park. The Abel Tasman is a beautiful environment that needs nurturing. Funding is always a challenge and we welcome donations such as this from individuals who want to assist."

Trapping programmes conducted by Department of Conservation resulted in Adele Island on the Abel Tasman Coast being declared predator-free in September 2009. The increase in bird song is notable to any visitor in the vicinity of the island.

As birds resulting from successful breeding on the island are expected to migrate to the mainland, Birdsong Trust volunteers are now conducting a trapping programme along the Astrolabe Roadstead with the aim to reduce predator numbers and increase the chances of survival for these birds.

For information on the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust, to make a donation or become a volunteer, see their website www.abeltasmanbirdsong.co.nz or enquire with commercial operators in the Park.

8 July 2011

