

Trust Objectives to 2015

While the ATBST has an interest in Abel Tasman National Park as a whole, a few accessible and highly popular areas have been identified for strategic focus in activities over the next five years to 2015. The aim is to attract increasing public support by demonstrating early success in restoring native fauna and flora in areas along the coastline where the majority of Park users can access and enjoy recreational activities.

To this end the five year plan includes on-going stoat and rat control by trapping and monitoring populations along the coast, control of ungulates (deer, pigs and goats) in selected areas such as Little Anchorage, control of wilding pines in the Pitt Head area, bird counts (Adele Island and adjacent mainland) and containment of plant pests such as prickly and willow leaf hakea.

A major focus of the five year plan will be the investigation of options in an area of up to 320 hectares around the Pitt Head - Anchorage Peninsula which has been identified by DoC as suitable for the creation of a predator-free “mainland island” in which both pest control and enhancement planting would have immediate and long term benefits. This area is also the focal point for a possible new loop track from Anchorage to Pitt Head and southwards to Anchor Bay.

The ATBST will initially support activities in Phase 1 of this project, in which 25 ha on Pitt Head peninsula will be targeted for the eradication of pests and for restorative planting. This will manifest in restored birdlife and invertebrates, and the food they seek in native flora including the highly visible flowering rata. Phase 2 of the project will be to extend the area of rehabilitation to 320ha but subject to sufficient financial support for the Trust and it's resource of willing volunteers.

\$16,800 has already been received by the Trust from voluntary contributions by water transport and activity operators in the park. Other funding sources have included generous donations from individuals and businesses who support the Birdsong Trust's conservation work within the Abel Tasman National Park.

Project Crimson

The trust is supporting 'Project Crimson' with the supply of and planting of northern rata throughout the Park and the Awaroa Residents' Association have generously donated funds to purchase 50 plants. The planting of this native flowering rata will be undertaken at Queens's Birthday weekend by members of the Awaroa Resident's Assn who will be concentrating in and around Awaroa estuary and peninsula.

ATBST volunteers will be taking delivery of a further 50 rata plants in the spring and it is envisaged that this planting will be undertaken around the Pitt Head peninsula to enhance the area that is currently being cleared of wilding pines etc by Abel Tasman Sea Shuttle staff.