

# Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust/Te Poari Koro Tui Newsletter

March 2019



Kia ora and welcome to the March edition of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust's newsletter.

## ***Predator control news***

We currently manage a network of 541 stoat boxes and 475 self re-setting A24 traps to protect our precious native wildlife. We have caught **263 mustelids and 3,853 rats** since thorough records began in 2010. This isn't counting the animals killed by the A24's which don't have a 'body count' so it's fair to say the total will be much higher than that! The trapping graphic in Appendix 1 is a great representation of the predator control effort currently occurring throughout the Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP).



*A thankful South Island Robin/Toutouwai (Photo credit: Darryl Wilson)*

We give huge thanks to our volunteers - without you we wouldn't be able to make such a difference!

## ***'Wasp Wipeout'***



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

In February, the threshold was reached to begin our 2019 'Wasp Wipeout' control programme.

The programme, initiated by the Nelson Mail, is supported by DOC for technical advice, and the Tasman Environment Trust for administration and distribution of funds.

This year the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust (ATBT) was granted \$2400 to purchase bait and supplies to complete the poisoning along the tracks in the southern part of the ATNP.

The protein-based bait [Vespex](#), which contains the insecticide fipronil, targets only wasps. It is not attractive to bees at all, which are attracted to sugar not protein.

Many nests can be controlled from a single bait station as wasps take it back to their nests to feed to their larvae. Wasp numbers will now be low and it makes the bush and ATNP a much safer place to visit.

## ***Restoration news***

The recent dry weather wasn't kind to many of the trees we planted last year along the edges of the coastal track up to, and around, the Tinline area. This project's focus is to enhance the visitor experience in the ATNP and provide excellent habitat for our native birds. We've been watering as much as possible and fortunately this means survival has been better than expected in these dry conditions.



*A healthy watered beech (L) and one that was missed (R) (Photo credit: Abby Butler)*

## ***Generous restoration support from the 'Abel Tasman Tree Collective' and 'Trees that Count'!***

In autumn we plan to plant a further 300 trees around the Tinline area. The following organisations have

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generously donated the trees for this restoration work:

The '[Abel Tasman Tree Collective](#)' have generously donated 200 trees. This organisation aims to pioneer a culture of philanthropy from the ATNP's international guests, directly funding the planning, eco-sourcing, propagation, planting and maintenance of native tree restorations in local protected areas'.



'[Trees That Count](#)' have generously sponsored the remaining 100 trees. This national programme 'is championing native tree planting through large-scale restoration and environmental education projects'. We registered our planting goals for our Tinline project and were selected to receive sponsorship.



Thanks to both these organisations for their support!

## ***Biodiversity news***

### ***Pateke/brown teal and Whio/blue duck***

To date [Project Janszoon](#) have released a total of 122 pateke/brown teal into Hadfield's Clearing. The majority of these birds are remaining around the release site and are still using the supplementary

feeders. There has been successful breeding this season which is a wonderful sign they will thrive in the ATNP!



Whio/Blue duck after their release into Falls River (*Photo credit: Project Janszoon*)

A total of 9 whio/blue duck have been released into suitable rivers in the ATNP. These birds came from eggs hatched and raised at Peacock Springs in Christchurch. They are being monitored closely by Project Janszoon staff to track dispersal and see whether they pair up with wild birds. Hopefully we'll have some successful breeding from them in the coming season!

### ***Tara/white fronted terns***

Great news! A flock of around 400 tara/white fronted terns have been spotted on the Awaroa Spit. It has been 13-15 years since this species nested in this location so it's a sign of good ecosystem health. We are so pleased we now trap in this area offering extra protection for these precious birds



Tara/white fronted terns (*Photo credit: NZ Birds Online*)



## 'Heart of the Park' project update

Our recent NZ Lotteries Grant Board application to cover some of the hardware costs of our 'Heart of the Park' project was successful. Once this project is completed, we will have increased the number of ATBT A24's in the park to 650. This extensive network will create a larger safe haven for our native fauna.

We currently have contractors in cutting new lines for this comprehensive coverage and volunteers are installing traps.



Existing and proposed A24 coverage for the 'Heart of the Park' project (Image credit: A Macalister)

## Online Presence

Our [ATBT website](#) has recently had an upgrade and we thank Pub Charity for funding this work for us. We readily acknowledge [Site Productions](#) for managing our website content and site hosting for us free of charge.

We also have an active [ATBT Facebook page](#) which is updated regularly. Use this to keep up-to-date with what we're up to!

## Would you like to donate?

Our 'Give-a-Little' page is proving popular. We set it up to make donating to our cause a little easier. Please go to the 'Give-a-Little' page and search 'Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust' or click on this link: [Givealittle - Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust](#) and follow the instructions.

Pass this on to friends you think might like to make a donation to our cause!

## 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
- all our full and associate members
- Pic's Peanut Butter for our A24 bait
- NZ Lotteries Grants Board
- DOC Community Fund
- Pub Charity
- all recent donors

We readily acknowledge the support we receive from both DOC and Project Janszoon. We continue to build on our positive relationship which allows us all to undertake a vast amount of work and improve the visitor experience in the ATNP.

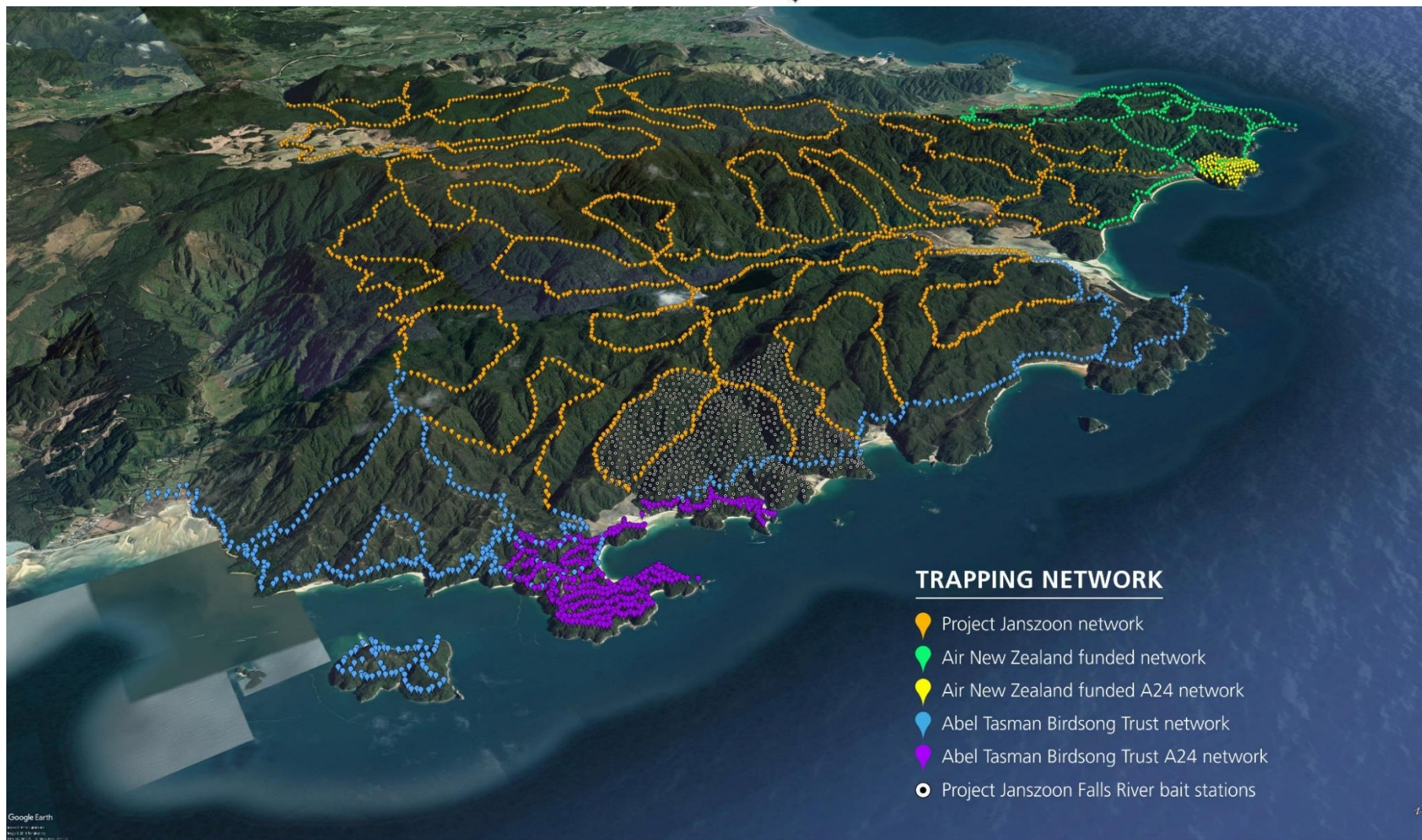
Thanks to all our volunteers – with your assistance we are removing pests, restoring ecosystems and giving our native species a fighting chance.

## Abby and the ATBT Trustees

### 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*



Appendix 1 - ATNP Trapping Graphic. Please note this is mid 2018 info so there have been changes to trap type but coverage remains the same. (Image courtesy of Project Janszoon)