



Kia ora and welcome to the first newsletter of 2020.

We are fortunate to have a very passionate group of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust (ATBT). A recent DOC reporting request calculated our hardworking team volunteered approximately 10,000 hours of time to our activities last year. This is immense and we are very grateful.

Predator Control News

We're proud of our intensive trapping network, which utilises both DOC150 traps and Goodnature A24s, to protect our precious native wildlife.

Volunteers have removed a total of **308 mustelids** and **6050 rats** from our trapboxes since October 2010.

Canaan Downs

We have recently taken over the management of some of the front country traplines in the Canaan Downs area. As well as protecting Toutouwai/South Island Robin, these traps protect isolated populations of our endangered [Powelliphanta](#) and [Rhytida](#) giant land snails that live in this part of the Abel Tasman. Native land snails are very distinct and need quite specific monitoring and protection. We're proud to be able to support Project Janszoon with this work.



A Powelliphanta snail (Photo credit: Department of Conservation)

Trapbox upgrade

We are currently in the process of upgrading our old wooden trapboxes which have been in service for many years. The new boxes will house two DOC150 stainless steel traps. We would like to thank PlaceMakers Motueka for supplying us with heavily discounted materials for this project.



Allan Barker (project lead) giving James Marshall (PlaceMakers Motueka manager) a letter of acknowledgement (Photo credit: Emily Beaumont)

Yellow Point ridge

We recently received some free traps from ZIP (Zero Invasive Predators) for use in the Abel Tasman. These traps were no longer needed for the 'Bottle Rock Peninsula' project in Marlborough and were offered free to top-of-the-south community groups. We are installing these along the ridge that runs inland from Yellow Point to form a heavily protected boundary to restrict predator movement.



Russell Trotter with the ZIP traps that were flown on site by DOC Motueka (Photo credit: Alistair Sheat)



'Heart of the Park' update

Very soon we will have completed the establishment phase of our 'Heart of the Park' project. A total of 565 hectares of coastal bush habitat will be heavily protected offering refuge for our native birds. The hardware for this project has been funded by the NZ Lotteries Grants Board so we acknowledge their wonderful contribution.

'Wasp Wipeout'



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

In February we will monitor wasp activity and likely begin our 2020 wasp control programme.

Once again, the Tasman Environment Trust will administer and distribute ['Wasp Wipeout'](#) funds. 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. Fortunately, kākā are not at risk either so it is safe to use in the ATNP.

Many nests can be controlled from a single bait station as wasps take it back to their nests to feed to their larvae. As well as making the ATNP a much safer place to visit, reducing wasp numbers benefits our native birds as there is less competition for food such as honeydew.

Restoration News

Our native trees alongside the coastal track up to, and around, the Tinline area are growing well. These trees enhance the visitor experience and provide an excellent habitat for our native birds.



Our plants are looking really healthy and benefit from the protection they get from the biodegradable [EmGuard](#) sleeves (Photo credit: Karina Amey)

Biodiversity News

Toutouwai/South Island Robin

Toutouwai/South Island Robin have been observed very sporadically on the mainland since they were released on Pitt Head in 2016. Fortunately, the population is still very healthy on Adele Island. If you observe a robin anywhere in the ATNP or surrounds, please let us know by sending an email with all the details to atbirdsong1@gmail.com

Tieke/Saddleback



South Island Saddleback (Photo credit: BIA Birdimagery)

Tieke/Saddleback on Adele Island are still proving to be quite elusive. A recent call-back survey showed a few birds were primarily found in the coastal margins where there is more dense



vegetation. The ridges are very dry so lack of territorial space may be a limiting factor for the population.

Pāteke/Brown teal

To date [Project Janszoon](#) has released over 200 pāteke/brown teal into Hadfield Clearing and many are still using the supplementary feeders. In December some ducklings were spotted with an unbanded adult which indicates they are a third-generation cohort. The birds are really loving their new home!



It's great to have the tamariki involved with the releases of pāteke into Hadfield's Clearing *(Photo credit: Project Janszoon)*

Kākā

Project Janszoon released kākā into Bark Bay /Wairima in September and October. We want them to be wild so please do not feed them and if they come too close just gently encourage them away. Some individuals have been seen as far south as Stillwell Bay so please report any that you encounter. Its easiest to do this through the free 'Abel Tasman' app which can be found in your Google Play or App Store.



A Kākā in the tree tops *(Photo credit: Project Janszoon)*

Education focus

At the end of 2019 we were involved in some environmental education activities with several local schools. Being able to show the next generation what we are achieving locally is so important. Hopefully our work will inspire them to be involved in the future!



Alistair Sheat and Marieann Keenan speak to Brooklyn School students about our work in the ATNP *(Photo credit: Amanda Davis)*

Trustee changes

We welcome Marieann Keenan to our Trust Board. Marieann is a dedicated volunteer with an education background so she brings great skills and enthusiasm to the Trustee role.

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 make a donation to our cause! Every little 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 commercial operators who support us with our annual Birdsong Levy and volunteer transport into the Park
- all our full and associate members

Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust/Te Poari Koro Tui Newsletter

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- Pic's Peanut Butter for our A24 bait
- NZ Lotteries Grants Board
- DOC Community Fund
- MacLab and all recent donors

We especially 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.

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!

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*