



## 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 rongō, Kia Kite, Ki te reo koro tui o Te Tai tapu*

Kia ora everyone,

What an interesting year 2020 has turned out to be! Covid-19 and lockdown put a halt to our trapping programme for a period and our passionate volunteers found it very frustrating having to leave their traplines unattended. Fortunately, predator numbers were low during this time and it didn't take long to get things back on track.

To ensure the health and safety of our volunteers we had to make some changes to the way we operate. The biggest change was minimising the communal use of gear. Teams have now been allocated their own trapping kits and vests and have to follow strict safety procedures when visiting the gear sheds for essential supplies. After a few hiccups the system seems to be working well.



Our vests drying in preparation for the return to Level 2 (Photo credit: A Sheat)

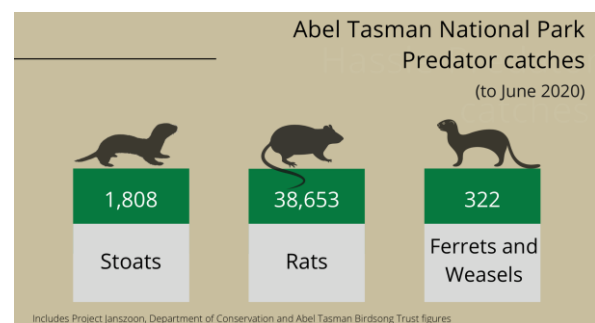
A huge thanks to those who have transported volunteers into the park over the last few months. This includes [Aquataxi](#), [Sea Shuttle](#), DOC and even private boat owners. This contribution during trying times is really appreciated.

## Predator Control News

Our intensive trapping network utilises both wooden trapboxes and Goodnature A24s to protect our precious native wildlife.

Our volunteers have removed **355** mustelids and **6825** rats from our trapboxes since October 2010.

Before lockdown the 'Trapping Manager' database showed that almost 40,000 predators have been removed from the park. This is an amazing joint effort by our volunteers, DOC and Project Janszoon.



What a great team effort! (Image Credit: Project Janszoon)

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 wonderful [video](#) has been produced to explain more about the project.



A Powelliphanta snail (Photo credit: DOC)



## ***'Heart of the Park' project completed***

We will have completed the establishment of our 'Heart of the Park' project. A total of 565 hectares of coastal bush habitat is protected offering refuge for our native birds.



The view from the ridge running inland from Yellow Point. (Photo credit: R Trotter)

## ***Restoration News***



Volunteers receive planting instructions (Photo credit: A Butler)

We have had two very successful planting days this year. We planted another 500 trees in pockets cut into the bracken along the trackside towards Tinline creek. These trees will improve the food source for birds as well as improve the visitor experience in the park. Thanks to [Abel Tasman Tree Collective](#) and [Trees that Count](#) for donating all the trees this year.

Thanks also to [Abel Tasman Charters](#) for their amazing effort getting everything prepared for us, and their donation of water crystals, fertiliser tablets, sleeves and stakes.



Planting with a view (Photo credit: A Butler)

## ***Biodiversity News***

### ***Adele Island/Motuareronui***

Adele Island has been declared mouse-free once again. DOC staff have worked hard to remove the mice that had taken over on the island. The recent three clear rounds of intensive monitoring confirm there are no mice, rats or mustelids on the island. Great news!

We undertake monthly trap checks on Adele and as Allan Barker explains it's the only place we go trapping "determined not to find anything!".

### ***Kākā***

Project Janszoon released kākā into Bark Bay /Wairima in late 2019. Monitoring has shown they are still dispersing along the coast. A trail camera set up near Yellow Point captured a couple of birds investigating one of our A24 traps.

The bird had a yellow band on its left leg. This identifies it as a male that came from a nest on the Perry Saddle. He was hatched and raised at Natureland before release.



The black grill the bird is tugging on is a 'parrot excluder'. These are fitted specifically to keep these precious manu safe from the kill mechanism. Looking at this we're pretty glad to have them installed on all of our A24 traps!



A Kākā investigating an A24 (Photo credit: A Sheat)

## ***'Wasp Wipeout' a wipeout!***



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

In February we were planning to undertake our annual 'Wasp Wipeout' campaign. However, monitoring along the coast didn't reach the required trigger levels so no control was initiated. We have all the supplies on hand for next year and want to thank the [Tasman Environment Trust](#) for their support.

## ***Trustee changes***

We have recently ushered in some changes to our Trust Board. Further details can be found on our updated [website](#).

- We thank Allan Barker, John Campbell and Aneika Young for their amazing contribution over the years.
- We welcome Andrea Goodman as a new Trustee. Andrea brings strong conservation and governance skills to the role.
- We have also had a change in Chairperson with Alistair Sheat taking over from Kim McGlashen.

## ***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 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
- Pic's Peanut Butter for our A24 bait
- NZ Lotteries Grants Board and the Moncrieff Family Trust for funding our 'Heart of the Park' project
- DOC Community Fund for funding the coordinator role
- All recent donors
- The Department of Conservation and Project Janszoon for their partnership support

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!