

Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust/Te Poari Koro Tui Newsletter

September 2025



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

Kia ora and welcome to the September edition of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust's newsletter. This is produced to give an update on our recent activities.

Education and Advocacy

This year we have moved our bank accounts over to Motueka NBS. They are very supportive of community groups and it's great to be able to pop into a local branch. A week after we became customers, we were invited to attend a Nelson Giants basketball game to participate in the NBS 'Hoops for Charity' event. Our wonderful kiwi bagged us \$1000 by shooting the most hoops in 75 seconds!

This event is sponsored by [Nelson Building Society](#) and we thank them so much for their support!



Abby and Biff (the kiwi) with the winning cheque! (Image credit – D Vickers)

Tinline Enhancement Project

Our goal is to enhance the Tinline Nature Walk so that it becomes an educational feature for visitors to the Abel Tasman. Our first phase has been completed with 25 informative plant ID signs installed next to special flora. The next phase is to make the loop walk even more accessible for visitors. We have sourced granite from a nearby site which will be distributed via power barrow to improve the track surface. We thank the [Mārahau Pledge](#) for their generous support of this project.



Abby and the fadges of granite. (Image credit – M Keenan)

Online Presence

We have recently joined the new [Connected By Nature](#) website. This is an excellent resource for community conservation groups and people that want to connect in the top of the south. Upcoming events are listed here so be sure to check it out.



Your guide to community conservation in the Top of the South



Fundraising Quiz – Conservation Week 2025



We had 23 teams registered at our fundraising quiz as part of our Conservation Week celebrations.

We raised over \$1200 and would like to thank those who generously donated items for our raffle prizes:

GECKO THEATRE, Wilsons Abel Tasman, Motueka Recreation Centre, New World Motueka, State Cinema Motueka, Revite Cafe, Abel Tasman Charters, Tasman District Council, West Coasters, PGG Wrightsons, Simply Indian, the Brewer family, and the Dick family.

Predator Control

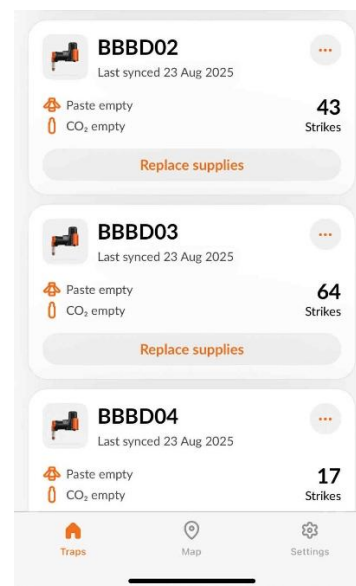
Trapping Update

Volunteers have been busy trapping with a total of 609 mustelids and 14,929 rats removed from our wooden box traps since October 2010.



Mark and a grilled rat on the coastal trapline (Image credit – A Lasenby)

We also have a network of Goodnature A24 traps in place. Some of these are fitted with a 'Smart Cap' which is useful for measuring the performance of the A24 network as they record the number, time and date of kills. The image below shows data from three of our Boundary Ridge traps. They are busy!



How information is presented in the Goodnature app (Image credit – Goodnature)

Our coastal trapping supports the other predator control happening over the inland part of the Abel Tasman. It's a team effort!

Moving the people!

We give a huge thanks to those who have transported volunteers into the park over the last six months. There are a lot of people to move at times. This includes [Aquataxi](#), [Sea Shuttle](#), [Wilson's](#), and DOC. We couldn't do it without this support!



Biodiversity News

At the beginning of the year, we had passionate volunteers out and about promoting the very successful 'report a robin' campaign led by Project Janszoon.

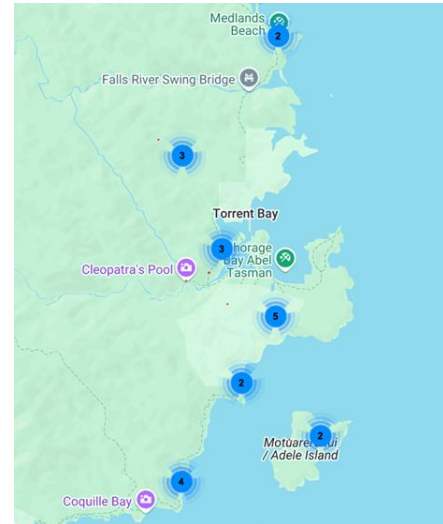


Claire enjoyed chatting to park visitors about wildlife (Image credit – C Griffin)

Visitors were really keen to learn more about these birds and all the conservation work that is going on in the Abel Tasman. There were 69 reports overall with 29 of them on the coast.

To follow up this campaign we are going to utilise some of Project Janszoon's acoustic monitoring equipment to gain a better understanding of the coastal distribution of South Island robin / toutouwai in the Abel Tasman. The units will be positioned to ensure we cover known territories and also other good habitat where robins may be present but haven't been observed.

This project will help us understand if these birds are establishing successfully in coastal areas, particularly where rats are controlled with A24 traps, delivering direct outcome measures of our predator control effort.



Robin hotspots along the coast (Image credit – Project Janszoon)

Restoration

Our Planting Project



The planting team! (Photo credit – A McCall)

The trees we have planted along the coastal track into Tinline are looking fantastic. There is still a substantial amount of ongoing maintenance required to keep the bracken and weeds suppressed. Fortunately, we have a great team willing to help with this! This part of the park is going to look amazing for future generations.

Thanks to [Trees that Count](#) for funding the trees for this project. The species we plant are all grown from eco-sourced seed which is very important for the Abel Tasman ecosystem.



He tangata, he tangata, he tangata: The people, the people, the people

New Trustees

We recently welcomed two new Trustees to our Board and both bring great skills:

Jenny Dicks connects us to the Awaroa community where she spends time at her bach. "Over the past 22 years living in the Moutere area, I have spent a considerable amount of time exploring the Abel Tasman National Park. I am enjoying the volunteer work for ATBT as it is a great way to learn more, help encourage the birdlife, re-establish biodiversity and a great excuse to get outside to enjoy nature. I am regularly in the Awaroa area checking traps and I'm keen to encourage community involvement to support ATBT in the restoration and preservation of our native species"



New Trustee Jenny Dicks (Photo supplied)

Ross Maley has excellent community connections and brings beneficial practical knowledge to the Board. He has 25 years' experience in conservation as a former Ranger at the Department of Conservation, and currently as the Manager of Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park. He has practical skills in restoration, weed and pest control, wilding pines, and track building.



New Trustee Ross Maley (Photo supplied)

Our Volunteers

Another instalment of our 'Volunteer Voice' - Introducing wonderful sisters Jill and Sue Vollmer!

"Our favourite part of volunteering is the whole day! The boat ride, catching rats, talking to the trampers/visitors we meet on the track. The Aquataxi crew are very grateful and interested in the work we do for Birdsong too. Thank you, Birdsong, and Andrew and Laine for taking us on as volunteers"

We love having you both part of the team!



Sue and Jill Vollmer (Photo supplied)



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 donate to our cause! Every contribution assists us greatly.

Or you can also purchase a trap that is sent directly to us via our own [Give a Trap](#) page!



Whakarongo ki te tangi a te kākā

Whakarongo ki te tangi a te pāteke

Ka tangi hoki ahau

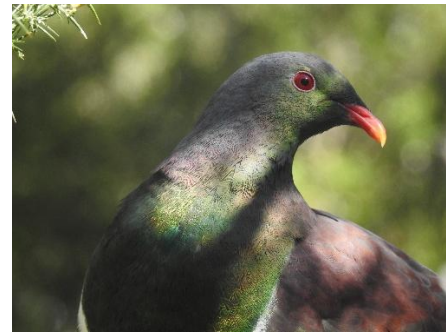
Tihei mauri ora!

No reira kia ora tatou katoa

Acknowledgments

Our positive conservation gains wouldn't be achievable without support from the following groups, so we give them heartfelt thanks:

- The local business operators who support us with our annual Birdsong Levy and volunteer transport into the Park
- The visitors to the Park who always show an interest in what we do and contribute a small part of their ticket fare to our restoration work
- All our full and associate members
- Pic's Peanut Butter for our A24 lure
- All recent donors
- DOC and Project Janszoon for their excellent partnership support
- Trees that Count.
- Mārahau Pledge



A healthy Awaroa kereru (Image credit – M Forward)

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!