

Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust/Te Poari Koro Tui Newsletter

July 2026



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 July edition of the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust's newsletter. This is produced to give an update on our recent activities.

Governance Update

Trust Board changes

We would like to warmly welcome Helen Lindsay to our Trust Board. Helen has thirty years of experience in restoration planting and weed control, working initially on Hauraki Gulf islands in the Auckland area until moving to Motueka in 2010. She was restoration supervisor with Project Janszoon in the Abel Tasman from 2016 until retiring in 2024. She feels privileged to have been able to work in such a beautiful place and wishes to continue to contribute to its wellbeing.



New Trustee – Helen Lindsay (Photo supplied)



Trustee changes and giving thanks (Photo credit: A McCall)

Strategic Planning – where to from here?



Onetahuti Bridge (Photo: J Dicks)

Every five years Trustees gather to review our Strategic Direction. This was an opportunity to discuss where we want to focus our efforts and to evaluate our outcomes. It was noted that we have a multi-generational vision and there is lots of change underway with Project Janszoon transitioning out of the Abel Tasman and Te Here-ā-Nuku Trust being established. We will grab opportunities as they come up and be dynamic!



Education and Advocacy

Fundraising quiz a success!

We hosted another very successful and social quiz night at the Motueka Sprig and Fern. A huge thanks to everyone that supported this fundraiser, including quiz master and Trustee Biff. We raised \$1677!



Happy raffle prize winners (Photo credit –A McCall)

Nayland College

Some Nayland College geography ākonga went on a field trip to examine the effectiveness of trapping and to assess the health of native bird populations in the park.

They checked some of our traps and carried out bird counts by listening for calls and recording sightings. It gave students a deeper appreciation for the effort required to maintain these ecosystems and protect vulnerable wildlife from predators. Seeing Kaka was a real highlight for them and confirmed that the hard work is worthwhile!



Happy students on the water taxi (Photo supplied)

Lower Moutere School

Mike and some Lower Moutere School ākonga have been checking traps in the Tinline area. We love that they have taken ownership of this local trapline and will see real change over time. Last visit they observed toutouwai / South Island Robin and lots of colourful fungi.



Trap clearance and note taking (Photo credit –M Lynch)

Torrent Bay – a day to reminisce

Abby and Biff had a great time nourishing visitors on a Wilsons Abel Tasman charter voyage. This was for those wanting to visit Torrent Bay to reminisce about their past holidays and connect with old friends.

Many people noted the difference in birdsong over the years - attributing the increase to the predator control we undertake in the area. We love feedback like this! Thanks to the Wilson's team for donating all the supplies for this ATBT fundraiser.



The sun was shining! (Photo credit: A McCall)



Ecosystem Restoration Update

Planting pocket maintenance

Ongoing maintenance is required to keep the bracken and weeds suppressed in our planting pockets. We've had one successful working bee with two more booked for the 17th and 30th of July – let us know if you'd like to come along!

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



The busy team (Photo credit – A McCall)

Montbretia Control

A fantastic group of DOC Cadets spent three days helping us with some work in the Tinline catchment. They dug out 60kg of montbretia bulbs, pulled bracken and blackberry in our planting pockets and poisoned gorse. They also did some trap box site maintenance for us to make trap checking easier for our volunteers. We're so grateful for their efforts!



DOC Cadets with the bulbs (Photo credit: M Keenan)

Pine Control

We are currently focussing our wilding pine control efforts in the Tinline catchment and up behind Anchorage. This is rewarding work pulling out and cutting down pockets of wilding pines. We're always looking for more help – contact us on atbirdsong1@gmail.com if you would like more information.



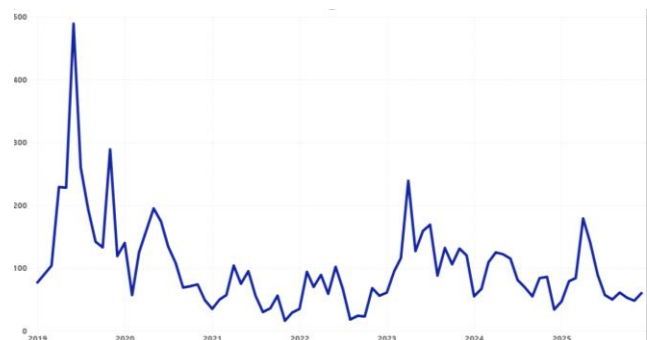
Pine control team up behind Tinline (Photo credit – S Brewer)

Predator Control

Trapping Update

Volunteers have been busy trapping with a total of 621 mustelids and **15,472** rats removed from our wooden box traps since October 2010. What an achievement!

Mike, our Predator Control Coordinator, produced a great report which can be viewed in full on our website - [latest Predator Control Report](#)



As with previous years we have seen a peak in rats caught in the late summer months (Image credit – M Stringer)

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

Volunteer Voice

Here is our next Volunteer Voice instalment!



Thanks for your efforts, Russell and Rex! (Photo supplied)

What is your name, where do you volunteer, and how many traps do you check?

My name is Russell Trotter. I check Boundary Ridge with Rex Smith. We check 28 box traps and a lesser number of A24 automatic traps each month.

Why did you choose to volunteer with ATBT?

I felt that it would be good to assist with predator control while enjoying the regular opportunity to go into the Abel Tasman National Park.

What is the most interesting or unusual thing you have seen when out and about?

It was great when we were greeted by a robin on the coastal track that was happy to spend some time with us until it was ushered away by its parent. There is always interesting encounters with weka which often follow us. On one occasion one managed to steal all our bait!

What is your favourite part of volunteering?

My favourite part is the excursion into and out of the Park which we do by double kayak (Marahau to Stillwell).



Motureronui / Adele Is - what a backdrop! (Photo credit - R Trotter)

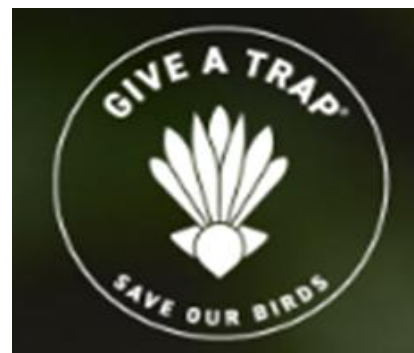
Giving thanks

It's important to us to celebrate the input of our volunteers and supporters. We hosted an evening event in May (forgot to take photos!) where Abby did a presentation on our recent projects and explained some plans for the next few years. We're already thinking about the next event so keep an eye out for details!

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!





Moving the people!

We give a huge thanks to those who have transported volunteers into the park over the last few months. We know that it can be tricky making schedules work during the winter months. There are a lot of people to move at times. This includes [Aquataxi](#), [Sea Shuttle](#), [Wilsons](#), and DOC. We could not do it without this support!

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 would not 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
- Give-a-Trap
- Mārahau Pledge
- Wasp Wipeout
- Goodnature

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!



Left - Wood Ear or Hakeke (Family: Auricularia). Right - Bird's Nest Fungus (Family: Nidulariaceae) (Photos – J Dicks)



A ngirungiru / Tomtit was very interested in what our volunteers were up to! (Photos credit: A Sheat)