



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 rongu, Kia Kite, Ki te reo koro tui o Te Tai tapu

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

We want to say thanks!

We would like to invite all our volunteers and supporters to a celebration on Friday May 1st, 5.30pm in the Motueka Library. We will provide refreshments, share the Trust's recent activities, and get your ideas about the future! Please rsvp by 28th April via atbirdsong1@gmail.com for catering purposes.

Contribution Acknowledgement



Acknowledging the Plowmans' contribution to Abel Tasman National Park (Image Credit Ruth Bollongino/Fern Photos)

Representatives from [Project Janszoon](#), the Next Foundation, the Department of Conservation, Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa and the Plowman family attended an

event to unveil a commemorative sign, seat and pou above Anchorage Bay.

This was to acknowledge Neal and Annette Plowman who have donated \$20 million to restore the Abel Tasman National Park via Project Janszoon. What an incredible contribution!

Project Janszoon will hand its work over to the Department of Conservation to manage at the end of June.

Te Here-ā-Nuku Trust – Making the Tenths Whole

We would like to acknowledge the [Te Here-ā-Nuku Trust](#) and their recent settlement with the Crown. We are excited to move forward together in the conservation future of the Abel Tasman National Park. We share their commitment to fostering positive relationships for the benefit of manu, rākau and other kararehe.

Note that there will be no changes to the operation of the Abel Tasman Great Walk and wider conservation areas. All bookings and access continue as usual.

Trust Board changes

We would like to acknowledge Bruce Whitwell who has resigned as a Trustee after many years of commitment. He remains actively involved as a volunteer.

We also wish to acknowledge Alistair Sheat who has recently resigned as Chairperson. He led ATBT confidently through strategic change in his 5-year tenure. He stays on as a Trustee and is an active volunteer.

We would like to warmly welcome Marieann Keenan into the Chairperson role. Marieann has a background in counselling and education both in New Zealand and overseas. She lives close to the park boundary and is committed to the



environmental well-being of this beautiful area. She is also an active member of our volunteer group.



Our new Chairperson Marieann Keenan (*Photo supplied*)

Predator Control Coordinator

We recently welcomed Mike Stringer to our team as the Predator Control Coordinator. His role will focus on optimising our predator control programme and all that's associated with it.

Mike brings experience in IT, project management, and business management. He has called Nelson/Tasman home since 2005 and is actively involved in local conservation, contributing as both a volunteer and contractor across several projects.

He finds real satisfaction in helping care for this special place so future visitors can enjoy it too.



Our new Predator Control Coordinator Mike Stringer (*Photo supplied*)

Education and Advocacy

Involving the Tamariki

A positive group of Albany High School students joined us for a day out bracken pulling around our plantings. They were here to complete a 5-day tramp and one day of their adventure was set aside for volunteering. We are grateful they chose ATBT as their organisation to support. Some blisters and blood but most importantly laughter!

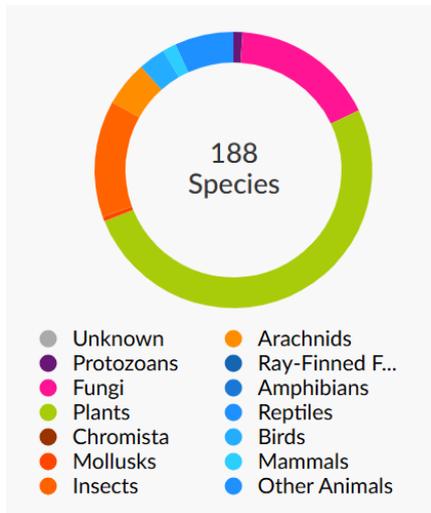


Tired but happy students (*Image credit – A McCall*)

Canaan BioBlitz

A large group of keen conservationists and experts gathered at Canaan Downs for the first Abel Tasman Bioblitz. Attendees utilised the iNaturalist app to record everything they observed as they moved slowly through the bush.

Together the group logged 790 observations. Identifying 188 species; with 122 identifiers and 46 observers helping confirm species online — an amazing collaborative effort!



Canaan Bioblitz – so much diversity when you look for it!

(Image credit – iNaturalist)

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 informative plant ID signs have been installed next to special flora and now the loop walk is more accessible for visitors after some resurfacing.

We will improve signage and build an outdoor classroom in the future making it a real front-country destination. We thank the [Mārahau Pledge](#) for their generous support of this project.



Track resurfacing makes it more accessible for visitors *(Image credit – A McCall)*

Our Plantings

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.



Site preparation and maintenance is ongoing *(Photo credit – A McCall)*

Fundraising Quiz 2026

When: Tuesday 14th April 2026, 7pm sharp

Where: Sprig and Fern, Motueka

Gather a team and book a table directly with the venue (03 528 4684). The cost is \$5 entry per person on the night and there is no limit to the number in your team. We will also be selling raffle tickets - \$2 each or 3 for \$5. All proceeds come directly to us!

Hope to see you there!!



Predator Control

Trapping Update

Volunteers have been busy trapping with a total of 616 mustelids trapped.... and we've now surpassed **15,000** rats removed from our wooden box traps since October 2010. What an achievement!

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. They also let us know about gas consumption.



It's not supposed to look like that! (Image credit – B Whitwell)

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

Footprint Tracking Tunnel monitoring

We have recently restored four Footprint Tracking Tunnel (FTT) lines in the Pitt Head and Anchorage area. This helps us monitor the presence/absence of rats and any activity patterns. Results highlight the success of our A24 predator control and guide our conservation efforts. Forty tunnels were opened in

February and there were 6 with rat prints and 2 with mice. Two lines had no tracking at all.



FTT results from our four lines. There was only tracking on two lines (Image credit – M Stringer)

Wasp Wipeout

We hit the trigger threshold this summer and kicked off our 'Wasp Wipeout' control programme with gusto!

We are grateful to the local 'Wasp Wipeout' campaign for funding the replacement hardware and bait.

We use the protein-based bait [Vespex](#), which contains the insecticide fipronil. It targets only wasps which are attracted to the protein. It is not attractive to bees or kākā so it is safe to use in the park. As well as making the park a much nicer place to visit, reducing wasp numbers benefits our native birds as there is less competition for food such as honeydew. Our volunteers are also kept safer during their trapping rounds.



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



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](#), [Wilsons](#), and DOC. We could not do it without this support!

Biodiversity News



An acoustic monitor being installed (*Image credit – M Collie*)

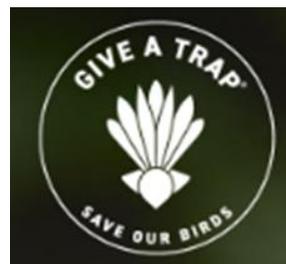
Project Janszoon generously lent us their acoustic monitoring equipment to gain a better understanding of the coastal distribution of South Island robin / toutouwai in the Abel Tasman. This helps us understand if these birds are establishing successfully in coastal areas, particularly where rats are controlled with A24 traps, delivering direct outcome measures for our predator control effort.

We deployed the units for two weeks and they recorded the dawn chorus between 5.30am and 10am. We are now using technology (as well as humans!) to analyse the recordings for calls.

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!



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

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!



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



False Morel near Awaroa. *(Image credit – J Dicks)*



A millipede at Canaan. *(Image credit – A McCall)*



A weka keeping an eye on our volunteers. *(Image credit – B Kitson)*



Shelf fungi near Observation Beach. *(Image credit – A McCall)*