



## 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,

We've had a busy winter and here are some highlights since our previous newsletter.

## Education and Advocacy

### Conservation Week talk

We enjoy sharing our story in the community and recently presented at the Motueka Library to celebrate Conservation Week 2023. Abby joined Kate from DOC and Bruce from Project Janszoon to discuss a range of interesting topics related to the Abel Tasman National Park - volunteer input, native fish, and species restoration outcomes.



Abby speaking to the attendees (Photo credit – C Crick)

### Riwaka Duck Race

Sharing knowledge and engaging tamariki is so important! We attended a local school fundraiser

to speak to people about the restoration work in the Abel Tasman, kids even had the opportunity to track a whio (toy) using a real transmitter and telemetry gear!



Matching the footprints with the pest (Photo credit: M Keenan)

## Predator Control

### Trapping

Volunteers have been busy trapping with a total of 550 mustelids and 12,000 rats removed since October 2010.



Steve R (left) and his capable team of Lyall, Sonya and Geoff check the Tregidga and Falls Loop traps. (Photo credit – S Robinson)



We give a huge thanks to those who have transported volunteers into the park over the last few months. There are a lot of passengers to move at times! This includes [Aquataxi](#), [Sea Shuttle](#), [Wilsons](#), and DOC.

## ***Tinline Planting Project***

We planted another 500 native trees this season to improve the food source for native birds and improve the visitor experience. The growth from previous years is becoming really visible as you walk this part of the coastal track.



A planting pocket being filled up! (Photo credit – K Amey)

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

## ***Biodiversity News***

### ***Forest Birds***

We've had some exciting forest bird sightings along the coast recently. South Island Robin / Toutouwai have been reported in the Moncrieff Scenic Reserve near Cyathea Cove – the first time in living memory. This species and Tomtit / Miromiro are being spotted more regularly. These forest birds and

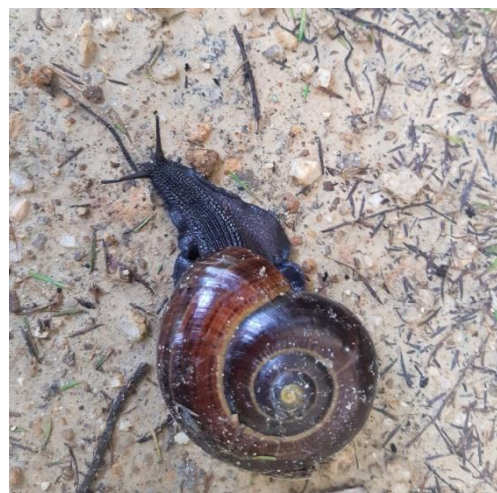
others like them are known as 'indicator species'. Within biology, an indicator species is one that signals a positive (or sadly negative) change within its environment. The fact that we are seeing more of these birds means our predator control is having a positive impact!



A healthy South Island Robin / Toutouwai helping with a coastal trap check (Photo credit: S Lucas)

### ***Snails***

Our volunteers get to see some pretty cool things! Bill came across this lovely big *Powelliphanta hochstetteri* as it made its way across his trapline near Awaroa.



Slowly does it! (Photo credit: B Hill)





Some fun facts about our native Powelliphanta snails:

- they are carnivores. They particularly like earthworms and suck them up through their mouth just like we eat spaghetti. They are also known to eat slugs.

- they are hermaphrodites, meaning they possess both male and female reproductive organs and therefore can mate with any other adult Powelliphanta.

- they lay about 5-10 large eggs a year. Each egg is up to 12 mm long, pearly pink and hard-shelled - just like a small bird's egg!

- It is estimated that Powelliphanta snails can live up to 20 years.

- Their predators include rats, possums, pigs and the native weka. Most of these species are being controlled in the Abel Tasman to give them a decent chance of survival!

## Our Volunteers



Planting in the sunshine (Photo credit -K Amey)

Volunteers are the backbone of all we do. There is a real sense of connection within the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and we do our best to foster it.

On page 4 you'll find a diagram labelling most of the tasks our volunteers do for us. You'll see we offer things for all fitness levels; we even have the 'office' tasks for those who want to be involved but their bodies just won't allow the 'field work' anymore. All jobs are important and help us function so well.

The light green ones are the tasks we undertake to assist Project Janszoon with their work. We are all working towards the same goal - making the Abel Tasman a better place!

## 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.

## 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
- Abel Tasman Tree Collective
- Trees that Count.

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!



## Tasks our amazing volunteers do for us\*:



\*Not an exhaustive list!

Some of the tasks our volunteers do for us (*Image credit –A McCall*)

*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*