

Pāteke / brown teal in the Abel Tasman



PROJECT
JANSZOOON
Together restoring the Abel Tasman

Since 2017 Project Janszoon, DOC and Manawhenua ki Mohua have released nearly 100 juvenile pāteke/brown teal at Hadfield Clearing, near Awaroa, on the lower Awapoto River.



The pāteke/brown teal is the rarest native waterfowl found on mainland New Zealand. They used to be the most widespread and abundant dabbling duck in the country but introduced predators and loss of habitat mean only 2,000 – 2,500 are left.

Why release them at Awaroa?

There is only one other South Island population of pāteke in Fiordland. Awaroa inlet is an ideal habitat and there are stoat and feral cat trapping networks in the area.

How do you spot a pāteke?

Pāteke are small duck and mainly brown in colour. Their distinctive white eye-ring makes them easy to tell apart from other ducks. The birds feed on pasture and invertebrates in the upper margins of estuaries so it is likely they will forage throughout the Awaroa Inlet. They have been spotted at Totaranui, and near the Awaroa Lodge.

You can help pāteke thrive in the Abel Tasman

Pāteke feed in drains and puddles on road edges at night so please drive slowly near Awaroa estuary. A single dog or cat can kill many pāteke. If you have cats on private land please be a responsible cat owner by keeping them inside as much as possible or put a bell on their collar. Please keep dogs supervised. Dogs are not allowed in the national park except if accessing private baches or with a hunting permit. If you see a feral cat please let us know at info@janszoon.org If locals are interested in trapping on their own property Project Janszoon can provide advice on the best trapping options.

What if I see a pāteke? Please report any sightings through the Abel Tasman smart phone app. Download it for free by searching for Abel Tasman in your Apple or Google Play stores.