

Problem weeds in the Abel Tasman



While 113 different weed species have been found in the Abel Tasman, Project Janszoon, DOC and the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust are particularly interested in what we call the “filthy fourteen”.

Each of these plants poses a different threat to the Park. If you see or suspect any of these species in or around the Park, please let us know. You can report sightings on info@janszoon.org or through the “Have You Seen This” section of the Abel Tasman smartphone app.

If you wish to control any of these plants yourself, please ask us or DOC for advice on the best means of control. For more information about these weeds you can also go to www.weedbusters.org.nz

Grevillea



Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*) is a classic example of the right plant in the wrong place. Originally from Australia, it is commonly found in gardens in Marahau, Nelson and Kaiteriteri, where it is prized for its pink flowers and long flowering period. It is likely to have been brought into Torrent Bay village as a garden plant, but instead found the Park’s dry ridges more to its liking. The seeds are dispersed by wind and at Torrent Bay it has spread up to 2 km back into the bush, colonising bare ridges in particular. The Birdsong Trust has spent \$40,000 controlling it in this area, with years of work still to do to bring this Aussie invader under control. Please don’t select any Grevillea species to plant at your bach or near the Park’s boundaries.

Wandering Willie



Wandering willie (*Tradescantia*) was introduced into the Park by early settlers. A 'fingerprint of the past', it generally occurs in areas where people once lived and worked, such as Totaranui, Awaroa River, Meadowbank and Bark Bay. It is a ground cover plant that smothers the ground in shady forest areas, preventing native seedlings from establishing. We have been treating the infestations in various locations in the Park, but they are very persistent. If you see surviving plants, please let us know. Wandering willie can easily re-establish by being dumped in the Park as garden waste so please don't dump your garden waste in or around the Park.

Periwinkle



Periwinkle (*Vinca major*, *V. minor*) was introduced into the Park by early settlers and is a 'fingerprint of the past'. It generally occurs in areas where people once lived and worked, such as Totaranui, Awaroa River, Meadowbank and Bark Bay. It is a ground cover plant that smothers the ground in shady forest areas, preventing native seedlings from establishing. Project Janszoon and the Birdsong Trust have been treating the infestations in various locations in the Park, but they are very persistent. If you see surviving plants, please let us know. Periwinkle can easily re-establish by being dumped in the Park as garden waste. Please don't dump your garden waste in or around the edge of the Park.

Holly



Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is an evergreen, shrub or small tree with lots of branches and glossy dark leaves. It competes with native plants for light and can form dense thickets. It is only known in the Park from some historic plantings at the Meadowbank Homestead at Awaroa. However it has spread widely from here at about a one kilometre radius.

English ivy



English ivy (*Hedera helix*) was introduced into the Park by early settlers and is a 'fingerprint of the past'. It generally occurs in areas like Totaranui, Awaroa River, Meadowbank and Bark Bay. English ivy is a climber that kills plants from ground level to canopy in lowland forest and can even bring down whole trees. It can also be a ground cover plant that smothers the ground in shady forest areas, preventing native seedlings from establishing. Infestations in various locations are being treated, but they are very persistent. If you see surviving plants, please let us know. English ivy can easily re-establish by being dumped in the Park as garden waste.

Cotoneaster



Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*) is another plant that was popular with early settlers and was planted widely in areas such as Totaranui, Awaroa River, Meadowbank and Torrent Bay. An evergreen shrub, originating in the Chinese Himalayas, it can grow 1–3 m high. It is not particularly valued as a garden plant these days but has managed to hold on in private land enclaves, and spread onto bluffs, open ridges and dry coastal forest in the Park. There is a particularly bad infestation at Tinline Bay, spreading from just a few old trees, which Project Janszoon will be managing for years to come.

Chilean rhubarb



Chilean Rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*) was introduced from South America and looks like ordinary garden rhubarb but on a larger scale. This 'rhubarb on steroids' was often planted in gardens for its interesting form. But it turned into such a problem plant that in 2008 it was banned from sale, propagation and distribution in New Zealand. We don't know of any Chilean rhubarb in the Park, but we know it is present on private land on the western margins, such as at East Wainui, so there is a need to be vigilant—particularly around the stream margins and wetland habitats that it prefers.

Wattle



Wattle (*Acacia spp*) trees in the Park mostly originated from Australia and there are many species around. In the Park, they have established both as garden plantings, and through historic plantings by early settlers, such as behind Venture Creek at Awaroa, and between Anchor Bay and Te Pukatea Bay. Different species pose differing spread risks, but the one thing the species all have in common is a preference for open and dry sites. As such, like *Grevillea*, they could do very well in large areas of the Park if allowed to get away. In 2015, the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust spent more than \$15,000 treating wattles around Venture Creek. We would encourage landowners to think twice before planting any wattle species at their bach, or near the Park boundaries, and please report any sightings to us in the Park.

Douglas Fir



Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is another classic example of the right plant in the wrong place. An important component of our forestry industry, Douglas fir is prized for its durability and resistance to decay. But, unfortunately, Douglas fir seed is very lightweight and can spread long distances by wind—up to about 10 km. This means that unwanted Douglas fir seedlings can appear well into the Park, with no commercial value but considerable weed potential. Particular areas of the Park at risk of Douglas fir establishment include the southern end of the Park, from Marahau to Stilwell Bay, and the Canaan Downs/Moa Park area. If you spot a young seedling you can pull it out, but in the case of larger trees please report them. .

Old mans beard



Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*) is one of our worst weeds, but also one of our better-known. It is a climbing vine which can grow to 20 m tall, smothering and killing all plants up to the highest canopy and preventing native plants establishing. Its seed is spread by water or wind, and can be accidentally distributed in roading material and bark. Project De-Vine is doing a sterling job removing these vines from Golden Bay, but there are still large populations around the Takaka Hill, Marahau and Riwaka that can spread seed into the Park We keep finding occasional plants within the Park, and so if anyone sights any vines, please let us know.

Banana passionfruit



Banana passionfruit (*Passiflora tripartita*) is one of our worst weeds, but also one of our better-known. It is a climbing vine which can grow to 20 m tall, smothering and killing all plants up to the highest canopy and preventing native plants establishing. Its seeds are spread by birds, possums and pigs so can also travel long distances. Project De-Vine is doing a sterling job removing these vines from Golden Bay, but there are still large populations around the Takaka Hill, Marahau and Riwaka that can spread seed into the Park We keep finding occasional plants within the Park, and so if anyone sights any vines, please let us know.

Climbing asparagus



Climbing Asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*) is another climbing vine that can cause real problems in our native forest. It can cover the forest floor and understory up to 4 m preventing shrubs and trees from establishing. It can also ringbark and kill soft barked plants. Seeds are spread by birds, and tubers can re-sprout after being spread in dumped vegetation and soil. We don't know of any climbing asparagus in the Park, but we know it is present on private land on the western margins, such as at East Wainui, so there is a need to be vigilant. If you do see any please let us know.

Pampas



Pampas (*Cortaderia jubata C. selloana*) is a tall 'cutty grass' with large erect flower heads that flower in late January. It has the ability to form large clumps that crowd out natives completely and is not to be confused with our native toe toe, which is smaller and has drooping flower heads. Pampas has a very lightweight seed that is able to be blown long distances - we often find it around beachfronts, on roadsides and on slips throughout the Park, but most often north of Onetahuti. We'd encourage landowners to deal with any pampas on their properties or beachfronts, and please let us know if you see any elsewhere in the Park. [Click here](#) for differences between toe toe and pampas.

Yellow / Italian Jasmine



Yellow or Italian jasmine (*Jasminum humile*) could become a major threat to the Park. This scrambling shrub can grow up to 2.5 m tall and has yellow trumpet-shaped flowers up to 2 cm long. Yellow Jasmine forms dense thickets, preventing the establishment of native plant seedlings. The fruit is spread by birds, or by dumped vegetation. It seems to thrive in fertile limestone soils and is already wall-to-wall on open sites in Golden Bay, including Pohara. It is also widely spread on the sheer cliff faces of Gorge Creek. We suspect that the plant is moving into the Park, beyond its traditional range on limestone country, with reports of it on Pigeon Saddle and in the Wainui catchment. If you see this plant, please let us know.