PROJECT JANSZOON

Together restoring the Abel Tasman

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Mihi

Takahia mai ra
Te tupuna whenua o Aorere
Ka rere taku reo tongi
Mai i Mārahau ki Wainui
Whakatau mai
Whakatau mai

Traversing the ancestral lands
My voice soars and declares
From Mārahau to Wainui
Welcome, welcome.

Pied stilt, Awaroa. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*
Cover: Whio/blue duck. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

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Milestones

JUL-2011
Proposal presented to Hutton Wilson Nominees Ltd

OCT-2011
Project approved in principle

DEC-2011
Project Janszoon Trust formed

JUN-2012
Heads of Agreement signed with DOC

AUG-2012
Weed survey commenced

SEP-2012
First bird survey completed

JAN-2013
Canaan/Wainui stoat network activated

JUL-2013
Firesmart dune programme started

NOV-2013
Wi-Fi trial commenced and Abel Tasman app launched

DEC-2013
1080 consent granted by TDC

FEB-2014
First wasp control trial

FEB-2014
Awaroa to Anchorage stoat network activated

MAR-2014
Tomorrow Accord signed with Conservation Minister

APR-2014
Education programme launched

APR-2014
First planting at Hadfield Clearing

MAY-2014
First kākāriki released at Wainui Hut

MAY-2014
Beech trial started on Motuareronui/Adele Island

SEP-2014
Tīeke/saddleback released by ATBT on Motuareronui/Adele Island

OCT-2014
Initial strike of pine control completed

DEC-2014
Wi-Fi network and Abel Tasman app extended across park

Sand patterns, Te Pukatea Beach. *Markus Baumann*

FEB-2015
Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador programme launched

JUN-2015
Won Supreme and Philanthropy and Partnership awards at Green Ribbon Awards

SEP-2015
Rātā planting programme begins

OCT-2015
Wins Green World international conservation award

NOV-2015
First kākā release

MAR-2016
Internet access available in Awaroa and Torrent Bay

APR-2016
Toutouwai/robin translocated to Pitt Head by Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust

NOV-2016
Native snails monitored with transmitters

JAN-2017
1,000th stoat trapped

MAY-2017
First pāteke/brown teal release at Hadfield Clearing

SEP-2017
Last stand of mature wilding pines controlled at Bark Bay

DEC-2017
First pāteke/brown teal chicks born

FEB-2018
Education scholarship announced

APR-2018
Heads of Agreement for Tomorrow Accord signed

JUN-2018
Beech trial extended to Anchorage

SEP-2018
New website launched

SEP-2018
First whio release

DEC-2018
Down the Bay book launched

JAN-2019
First kākā chicks fledge in park

MAR-2019
Two new schools join education programme

Tomorrow Accord secures ecological gains

The NEXT Foundation and the Government signed the Tomorrow Accord in 2014, as a way to ensure the ecological gains achieved by philanthropic trusts like Project Janszoon will be preserved for future generations.

The restoration of the Abel Tasman is the first project to benefit from the accord.

In 2018 a Heads of Agreement was signed by Project Janszoon chair Gill Wratt and Department of Conservation Director-General Lou Sanson. This document outlines the transformational outcomes that will trigger the accord in the Abel Tasman National Park.

Throughout this annual report you will notice the Tomorrow Accord symbol which outlines the target indicator for the agreed transformational outcome. As the project continues, the Department of Conservation will gradually take over maintaining the ecological gains made by Project Janszoon when the target for each is achieved.

Kererū/New Zealand pigeon. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

Chair and Director's message

We are pleased to report another exciting year for Project Janszoon in partnership with the Department of Conservation and the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust. In our 8th year of operation there has been noteworthy progress on many fronts. With a continued focus on managing negative impacts like invasive weeds and predators we are increasingly able to work on restoring native species and ecosystems in Abel Tasman National Park.

We faced a significant challenge this year in the form of a 'mega' beech mast. This seeding event was the largest in decades and threatened to elevate predator numbers to levels that could undo much of what has already been achieved. We responded with an aerial control programme using 1080 across approximately 11,000 ha to prevent rats from reaching high numbers. The control area was modified to find ways of preventing re-invasion of pests and results will be monitored through the spring and summer.

While challenging, beech masts provide a boost to many native species with some birds such as South Island kākā only nesting in mast years when ample food is available for raising young. We reached a milestone in our efforts to re-establish kākā to the park this year, with successful breeding and six chicks fledged from two different nests. The parents for both nests were females released from captivity, paired with wild males. This is an exciting outcome showing that our approach to re-establishing kākā is working. If we keep them safe from predators they can breed and thrive in the park. The release of 24 more kākā in the spring will put this species firmly on the path to recovery.

The well-established stoat network now covers more than 20,000 ha and continues to keep the pressure on stoats and weasels. The DOC team and the Birdsong Trust volunteers keep these traps running and our wildlife safe. It is pleasing to see trapping efforts continuing to evolve in the park, with the Birdsong Trust expanding their A24 trapping network up the coast as far as Bark Bay. A new A24 network funded by Air New Zealand now protects over 400 ha of high-quality forest north of Awaroa. The impact of these trapping efforts can be seen through the successful re-introductions of species like pāteke and whio that appear to be thriving in the park.

Efforts to control pest plants continue to show success, with good progress at many sites being made by DOC staff, volunteers, and contractors. Successful weed control relies on being able to target all individuals, and we are thankful to neighbouring communities for their support. It is pleasing to see the Nelson-Tasman Regional Pest Management Plan recognise the importance of controlling certain weeds on private land in protecting the park from re-invasion. With major stands of mature wilding conifers controlled, we are focussing on follow-up control of seedlings with the view to shifting into a maintenance programme under the Tomorrow Accord soon, the first project to achieve this milestone.

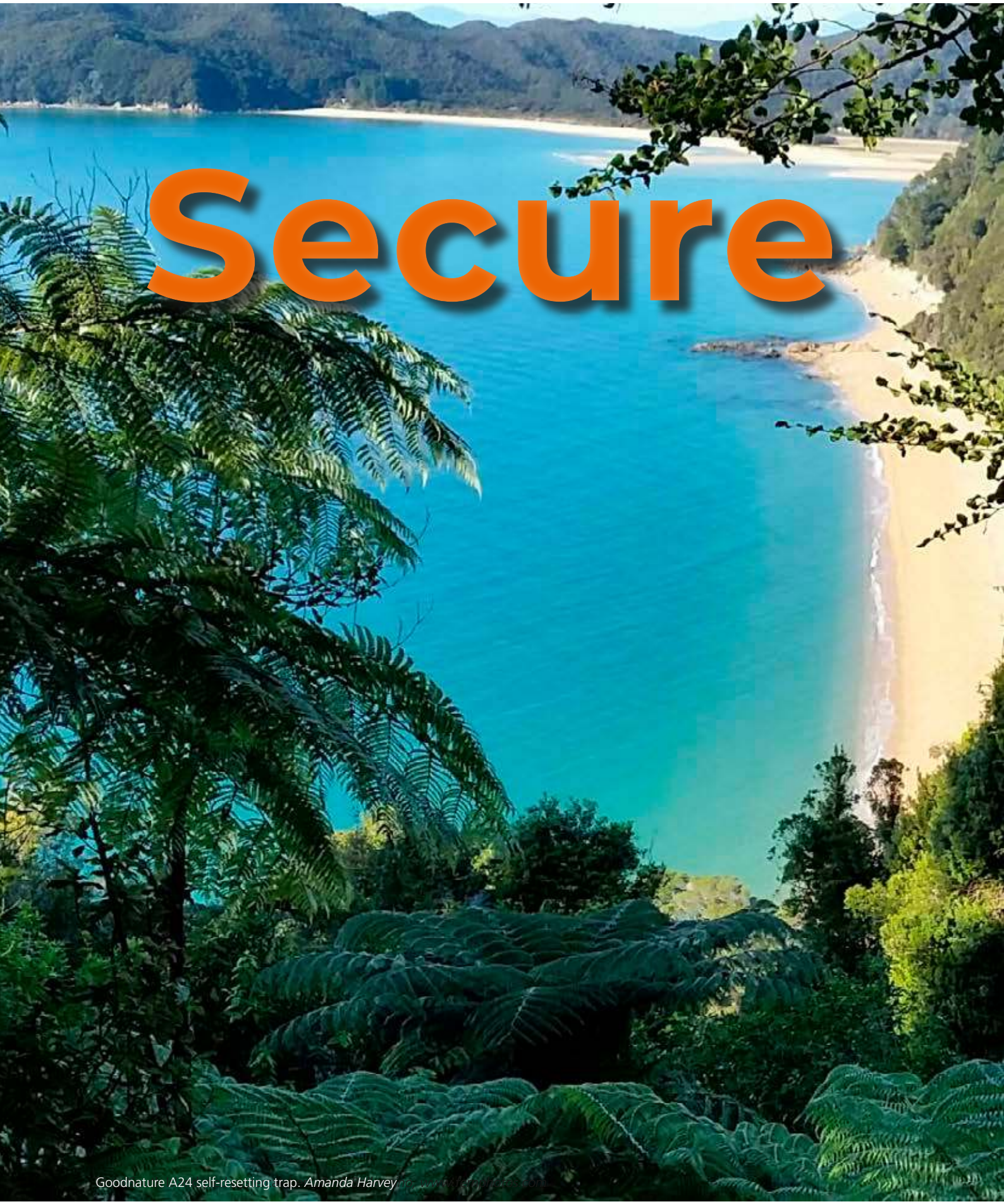
The education programme has taken a major step forward with the addition of two new partner schools, Lower Moutere Primary and Ngātīmoti Primary, who join Golden Bay High School, Motueka High School and Motupipi Primary School. It is exciting to see the passion and energy that students from these schools have for the conservation work underway. It gives us great confidence for the future of the park. The teachers and leaders from these schools, and Te Awhina and Onetahua marae, have embraced the Adopt-a-Section and Youth Ambassador programmes to provide authentic learning opportunities for their students in the park.

At the close of another year, it is our pleasure to thank the many people who have joined and supported Project Janszoon in our work to restore the Abel Tasman this year. We value the knowledge and experience of the DOC Team, the amazing energy and work of the Birdsong Trust, and the support and advice from local Iwi, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama and Te Ātiawa, in re-establishing taonga species. Thanks also to the concession operators for supporting the work, sharing the story of the positive changes underway, and helping our young people to connect with the park. We appreciate the growing support from our neighbours in and around the Abel Tasman who are finding ways to contribute to the positive changes underway. The Project Janszoon team has worked tremendously hard over the last year and their efforts are appreciated. And finally, thank you to Neal and Annette Plowman for their generous funding of Project Janszoon.

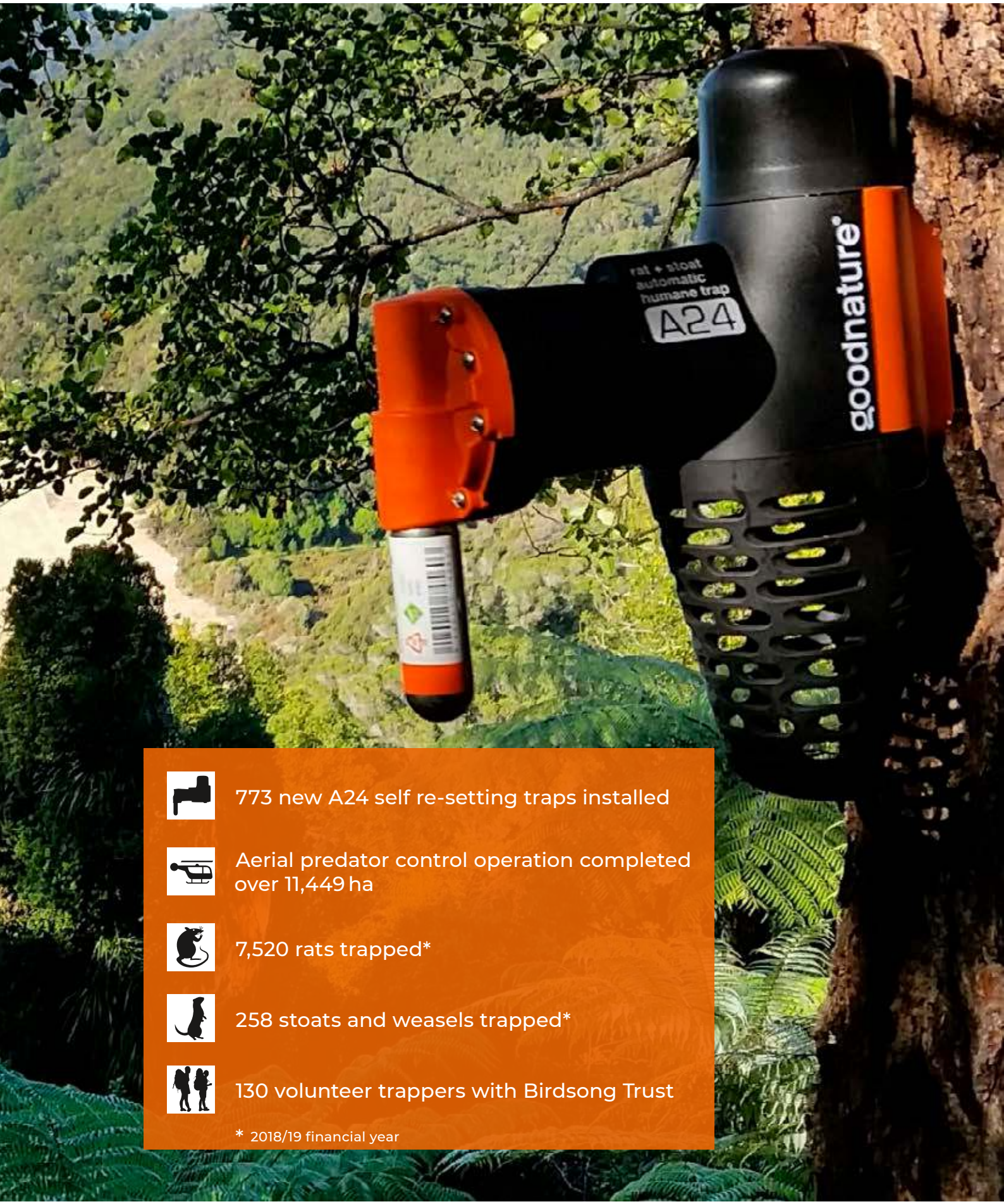
Gillian Wratt
Chair

Bruce Vander Lee
Director

Secure



Goodnature A24 self-resetting trap. *Amanda Harvey*



773 new A24 self re-setting traps installed

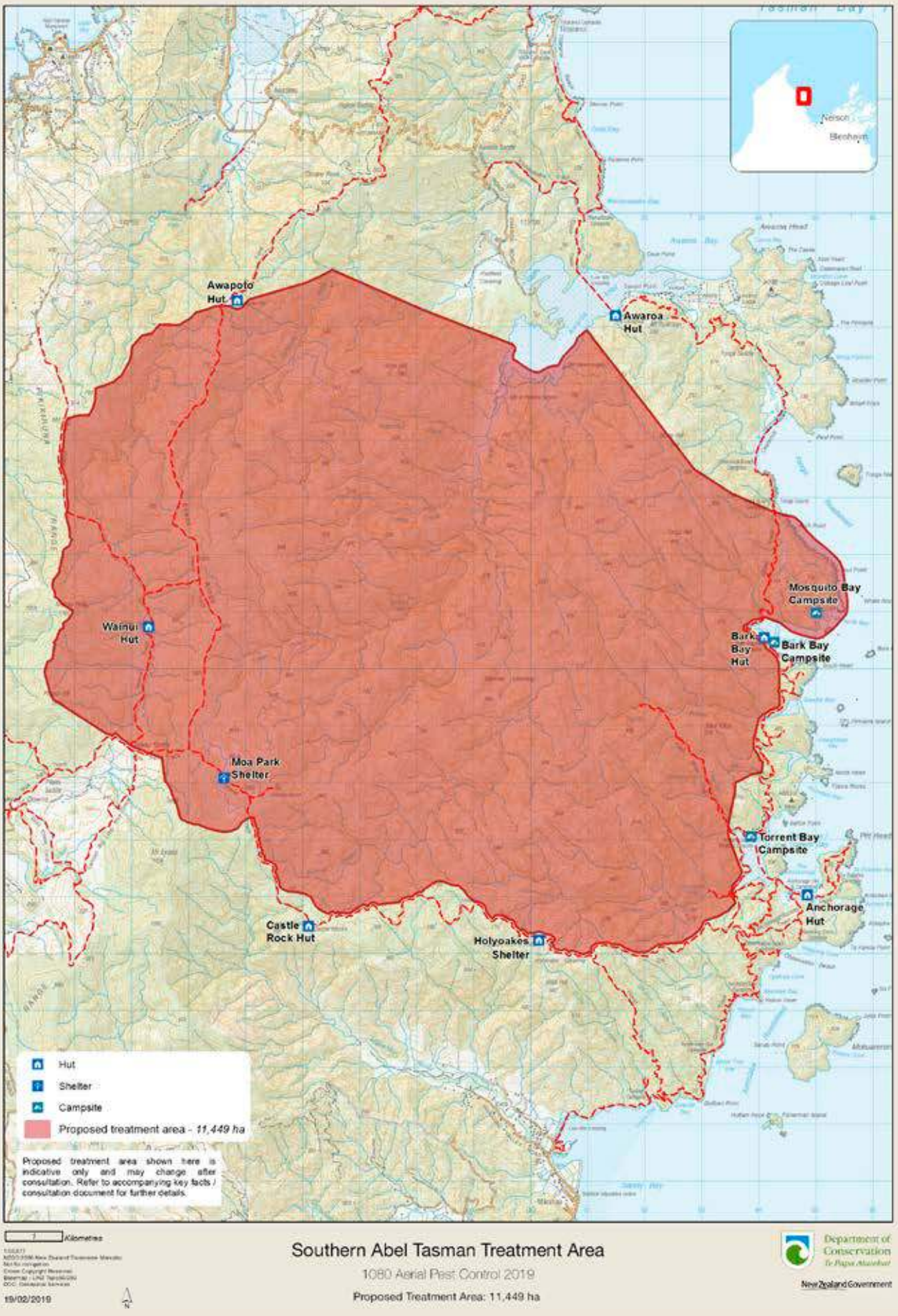
Aerial predator control operation completed over 11,449 ha

7,520 rats trapped*

258 stoats and weasels trapped*

130 volunteer trappers with Birdsong Trust

* 2018/19 financial year


Awapoto Hut
Awaroa Hut
Mosquito Bay Campsite
Wainui Hut
Bark Bay Hut
Bark Bay Campsite
Moa Park Shelter
Torrent Bay Campsite
Anchorage Hut
Castle Rock Hut
Holyoakes Shelter
Nelson
Blenheim
Hut
Shelter
Campsite
Proposed treatment area - 11,449 ha
Proposed treatment area shown here is indicative only and may change after consultation. Refer to accompanying key facts / consultation document for further details.
Kilometres
19/02/2019
Southern Abel Tasman Treatment Area
1080 Aerial Pest Control 2019
Proposed Treatment Area: 11,449 ha
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
New Zealand Government

Predator control tested by beech mast

The mega beech mast has been both a blessing and a curse for the park this year.

The abundance of beech seed has given forest birds, such as kākā and kākāriki, a bumper breeding season. But the abundance of food has also created a boom in rodent and stoat numbers, testing the park's predator control defences.

In order to protect native birds and land snails through the beech mast, an aerial 1080 predator control operation was undertaken in June 2019 to complement the trapping network.

The aerial predator control operation was undertaken on 18 June, four weeks after non-toxic prefeed bait was sown so rats were more likely to eat the toxic baits. Baits were sown with a 10% overlap to ensure no area was missed, and in a first for the Abel Tasman, we received permission to sow baits as close as practicable to the high water mark between Bark Bay and Tonga Quarry to make sure no residual rats were left.

Monitoring approximately five weeks after the operation showed a 98% kill rate above 600 m and a 88% kill rate below 600 m.

"This was a one-in-50-year mast event. The exploding predator numbers this year could have undone much of Project Janszoon's good work over the past six years," says Operation Manager Andrew Macalister. "It was vital that we intervened to protect the park's biodiversity."

Thriving populations of kākā and other forest birds is a Tomorrow Accord indicator that predator control is effective.

Possums targeted near the coast

Possums are being removed from coastal areas of the park through trapping or the use of bait stations.

Because of their coastal location these exclusion zones are not included as part of the aerial predator control. Project Janszoon and DOC monitor the exclusion blocks to ensure possum numbers are kept low, bringing in control crews when necessary.

In total, 598 possums have now been trapped or poisoned over four years, in the aerial exclusion area between Awaroa and Torrent Bay, and a further 262 trapped in the aerial exclusion area behind Awaroa village. "That's a lot of possums that are no longer munching through our native vegetation or eating native bird eggs. By using ground control we prolong the effectiveness of aerial operations so it is well worth it," says Andrew Macalister.

Healthy mistletoe is a Tomorrow Accord indicator to show possum control is working in the park. A mistletoe survey will be undertaken next summer to gauge progress.

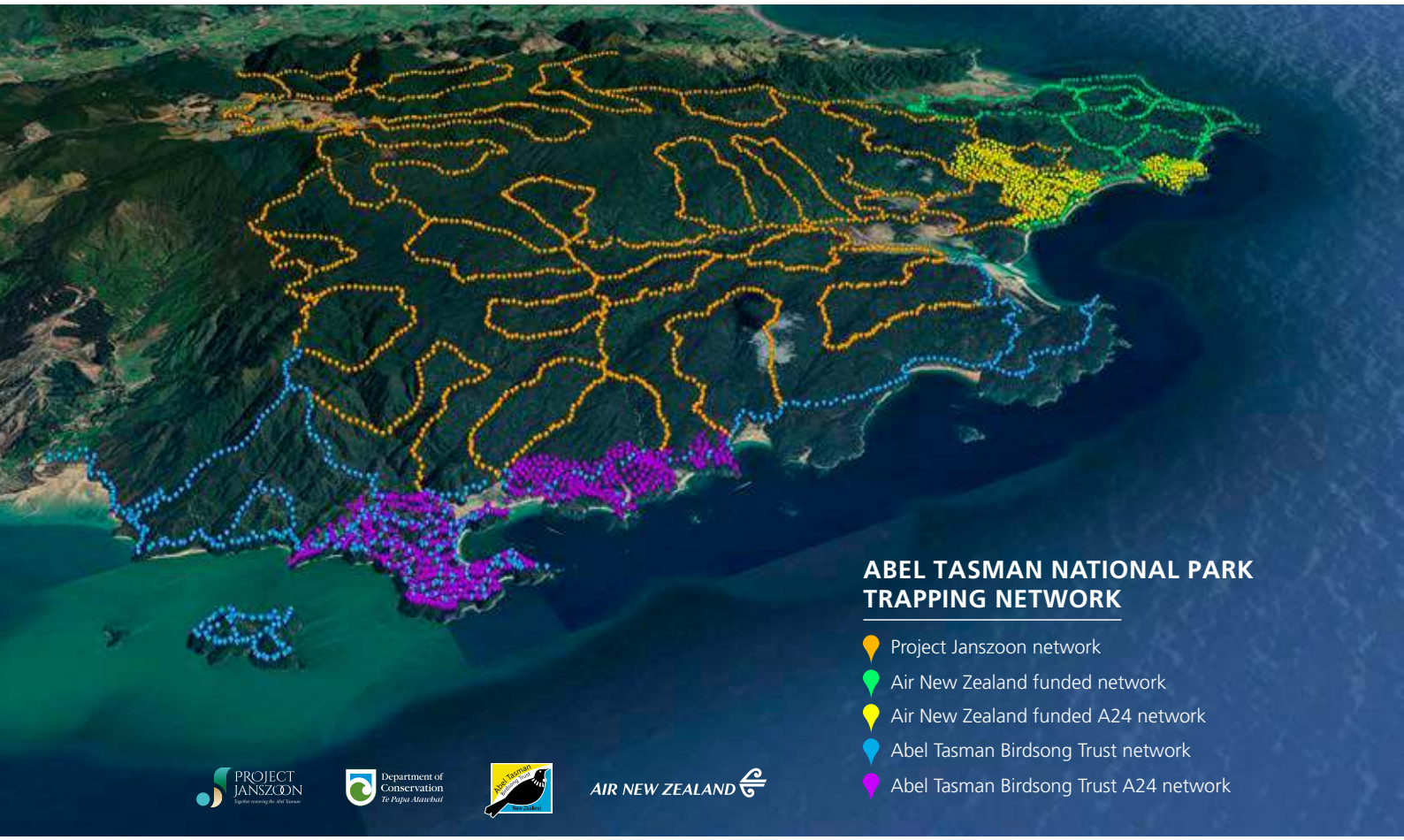
Controlling stoats ... the next steps

With species like pāteke thriving in the park we know our stoat trapping network is highly effective. The next step is looking at ways to trap stoats more efficiently.

In the next financial year we will be looking at optimising the network in the hope we can deliver the same results for less cost. The last five years of trap performance will be analysed, looking at where stoats were trapped, and when. Rat tracking data will also be looked at. When rat tracking is high stoat traps need to be cleared more regularly.

In collaboration with DOC and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research we hope to develop a predictive model that tells us when we need to check traps so not to lose the efficiency of the network. This work will be valuable for other projects and we plan to share the learnings nationally once we have an effective, proven model.

Kristiane Ellery checking trail camera



The ones that get away

A trail camera monitoring programme will give insights into how many stoats we are not trapping.

Fifty cameras, ten of which have been funded by Air New Zealand, are being placed around the park three times a year. Stoats are lured to the camera site using a piece of cloth from the beds of captive ferrets, which Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research has found is a very attractive lure.

The cameras take a picture when they detect movement and during the January/February, and March/April trials we detected possums, rats, the occasional feral cat, pigs, and birds like weka and toutouwai/robin, as well as stoats. A further trial is planned for July/August and the images will be analysed. Since Project Janszoon first began installing the trapping network over 1450 stoats have been removed from the park—this camera trial will give us more information about what is still out there.

A24 network extended

A24 self re-setting traps are proving to be highly effective in keeping rat numbers very low in non-beech mast years, with hundreds more being installed along the coast this year.

The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust has doubled its A24 network to 650 traps, extending from Pitt Head and Torrent Bay along the coast to Bark Bay. This 'Heart of the Park' sanctuary has been funded by grants from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board and the Moncrieff Scenic Reserve Trust, with support from Project Janszoon.

In the north of the park an Air New Zealand funded A24 network is being installed by DOC which includes 448 new A24 rat traps covering 450 hectares around Totaranui and Goat Bay. The hope is that they will be able to create corridors towards the coast in the remnant forest that will allow the birds to start breeding.

Keeping rat numbers very low around the coast means birds like toutouwai/robin, and korimako/bellbirds should be safe in these areas of the park. Ultimately we expect species like these, and kākāriki/yellow-crowned parakeet will migrate towards the coast from the upper reaches of the park.

Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust line leaders

Rats in trap

Helen Lindsay above Awaroa, removing wilding pine. *Andrew Macalister*

Trapping popular with volunteers

Removing stoats and rats from the park is proving to be such a popular pastime the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust now has a waiting list of volunteers wanting to join its trapping teams.

"The reason I live in this area is the Abel Tasman National Park—it's the heart and soul of our district and I'm passionate about getting birds back in the park."

Bruce Reid, ATBT line leader

The ATBT currently has 130 volunteers, up from 45–50 three years ago. With so many willing people they are able to service their trapping network of 542 stoat boxes fortnightly meaning traps are more efficient as they are cleared regularly.

"The satisfaction of watching predator numbers drop is enormous. What I'd like to see in the future is more mainland islands in the park."

Al Rynn, ATBT line leader

There are two sorts of people who want to become trappers says ATBT coordinator Abby Butler. Those who just love being out in the park, and those who get great satisfaction from trapping introduced predators.

"We are attracting skilled, passionate people and the collaboration with DOC and Project Janszoon is amazing. Everyone has settled into their roles and responsibilities and with so many keen people the work doesn't fall on a few," says Abby.

"Personally, I love tramping with a purpose. I am looking forward to seeing our new lines impacting on bird numbers in the same way birdlife has increased at Pitt Head."

Martin Howard, ATBT line leader

Because they are in such a strong position the Birdsong Trust is undertaking a planting restoration project between Marahau and Tinline and is also looking to extend its trapping network.

Wilding pines first Tomorrow Accord target

With all mature wilding pines now controlled in the park, Project Janszoon is on track to hand over the responsibility to DOC in late 2020 for protecting these gains.

This will be the first Tomorrow Accord target to be met as part of Project Janszoon's transformation of the Abel Tasman National Park's ecological prospects.

Before the handover, another season of follow up control will be undertaken.

Controlling wildings in the park has been a fantastic community effort. The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust began the control project in 2011. The arrival of Project Janszoon meant they were able to accelerate their work.

The eight hectare stand at Bark Bay/Wairima was the last major stand to be controlled in 2017 and it is thought the dying trees will be a great source of food for the kākā.

At the peak, it is estimated wilding conifers like radiata and maritime pine had infested more than 10,000 ha of the park, especially along the coastline and adjoining ridges.

The Tomorrow Accord target is met when no more mature coning wildings are found in the park, and one complete cycle of follow-up maintenance has been achieved.

Pampas jubata

Climbing asparagus

Cotoneaster

Douglas fir. *Photos: www.weedbusters.org.nz*

Feral goat. *Markus Baumann*

Rule changes protect weed work

A rule change by the Tasman District Council means landowners in the coastal enclaves of the park will become responsible for controlling easy-to-deal-with weed species on their properties from 2020.

TDC's new Regional Pest Management Plan's requirement will secure the weed control already done by Project Janszoon. The species include weeds that are in low numbers like European holly, grevillea, cotoneaster species, sycamore, and Douglas fir.

The majority of private land owners in the park have been supportive of Project Janszoon's weed control. With the new requirement coming into force in 2020 Project Janszoon is offering assistance to help bach owners meet the new obligations.

By co-ordinating weed control between the private land and national park we can help the native forest to regenerate without the threat of invasive weeds taking over.

Project Janszoon and DOC will continue to control weeds like pampas and African club moss which are more difficult to control and require specialist weed control contractors.

We are on target to eradicate Tradescantia and Periwinkle from the majority of the park, other than Awaroa village. The Project Devine Trust has also been contracted to undertake follow-up control of weeds like climbing asparagus and Italian Jasmine around the park halo.

Collaboration important for controlling goats

Work is underway to consult with private landowners around the wider park halo to stop feral goats reinvading.

Feral goats trash fences and ruin farm infrastructure, as well as eating pasture and spread parasites. In the park they eat native plants and trample large areas of vegetation, so many land owners are keen to work together to control them.

Operations Manager Andrew Macalister says conversations have taken place with most of the larger landowners surrounding the park. Project Janszoon and DOC will look to work with them to cull goats where it is mutually beneficial.

DOC ranger Ian Cox says the majority of landowners are keen for advice and a helping hand where they haven't got the resources to cull feral goats themselves.

"We're getting the goats in the park to low numbers but there is still a problem with them reinvading from outside. We're definitely starting to see the benefits. You notice the understory is beginning to regenerate when you are in the bush now," he says.

Ian says just over 300 goats were culled over the financial year using aerial hunting and thermal imaging gear. Professional ungulate control contractors with dogs helped with the control. Ian says the job is easier these days thanks to the stoat trapping lines which make it less difficult for hunters to get through the park's dense bush.

Because of the aerial 1080 predator control operation that took place in June, dog teams are not able to go into the park before summer so goat control will begin again in February 2020. This is a harder time of year to work in the park as the goats are harder to find and wasps are around.

The goat control target in the Tomorrow Accord is achieved when palatable understory species are thriving.

Protecting the halo

The ecological transformation of the Abel Tasman is being enhanced by work going on around the halo of the park.

A "honey" of a collaboration

A collaboration with a family establishing a start-up honey venture on the Abel Tasman's fringes has seen hundreds of feral goats culled.

The Edmondson family is transforming a 650-acre block adjoining the park, originally purchased by their grandfather, to start a honey business.

Over the last three seasons the family business has planted 150 thousand mānuka trees on the steep, rugged block. They plan to have up to 200 hives on the property which is situated at the head of the Rameka Creek.

As well as trashing fences and farm infrastructure goats eat palatable plants. Greg Edmondson says over the last three years they have culled 850 feral goats, with help from DOC and Project Janszoon.

Project Janszoon and DOC have helped with the "cunning goats" culling them in aerial hunting operations. Controlling goats around the park halo helps prevent feral goats migrating into the Abel Tasman bush.

"Without the assistance of DOC and Project Janszoon we wouldn't have been able to get those "hard to get" goats. It's been a really effective collaboration," says Greg.

"The conservation work happening in the park is a great thing and it's exciting to be part of it. Nowadays when you sit up on the bushline you can hear a lot of birdsong, it's only going to get better."

Rameka Carbon Forest providing green corridor

Just 2 km from the Abel Tasman National Park is the Rameka Carbon Forest. Owned by a charitable trust and run by the local incorporated society Project Rameka, the aim of its pest control programme is to provide a predator free corridor between the privately owned forest and the national park.

The Rameka Forest Restoration Charitable Trust was started to mitigate climate change, enhance native biodiversity and encourage people to take part in healthy recreation.

The 92 ha of land, which is under QEII covenant, includes newly built mountain bike tracks which are open to the public for riding or walking. One of the tracks is part of the historic Rameka Track, an old droving route from the late 1800s, which begins at Canaan Downs in the Abel Tasman.

The Rameka Trust's Andrew McLellan says the trust is keen to improve bird and insect life and provide a green corridor from the park through to Golden Bay.

"We've already seen a huge increase in birdlife since we started. We are definitely seeing a spillover from the park, and want to provide a haven for species like kākā and kea," says Andrew.

Volunteers and neighbours are running a trapping network of over 125 traps to protect native birds. Contractors also keep goat, pig and possum numbers down to protect native forest and other species.

Nelson green gecko, *Naultinus stellatus*. *Paddy Ryan*

Creating a safe biodiversity corridor on the hill

Landowners on the Takaka Hill are working together to create a safe corridor for native species between the Abel Tasman and Kahurangi national parks.

The Takaka Hill Biodiversity group was started in January 2018. It is made up of Hill landowners who want to safe-guard and enhance biodiversity on the Takaka Hill.

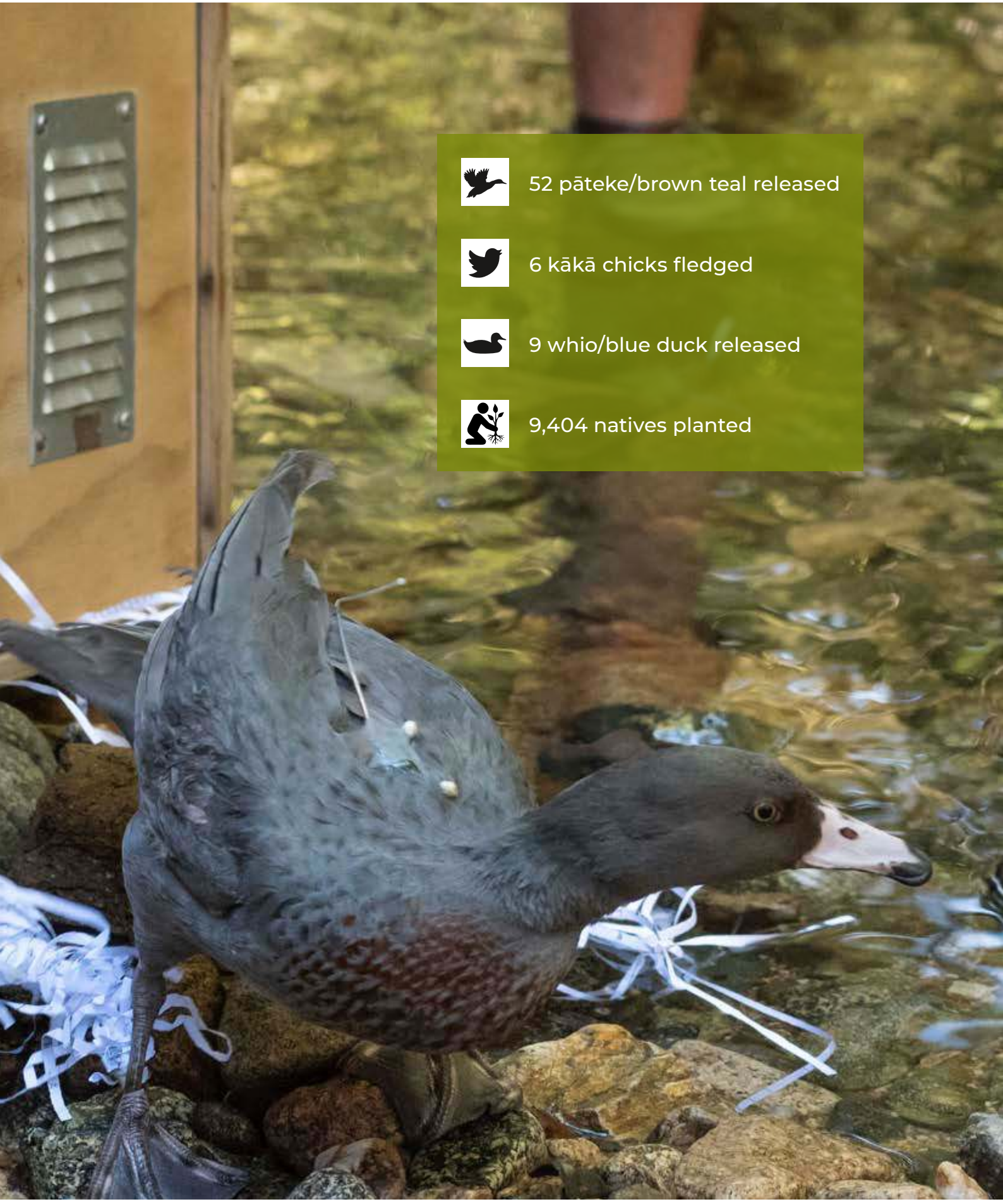
Group member Charmaine Petereit says the group understands that their lands form a corridor between Abel Tasman and Kahurangi National Parks where predator control has enabled the reintroduction of native birds like whio, kākā and pāteke. They are also home to species like Nelson green gecko, and the rare *Powelliphanta* and *Rhytida* native snails.

"When these species start spreading they will need a good safe habitat. Landowners know their properties inside out, so they are best placed to lead the conservation work on private land that complements the great work Project Janszoon and DOC are doing in the national parks," says Charmaine.

Charmaine says the landowners are undertaking wasp, weed and predator control to create healthy native habitats to protect native species. The privately owned land corridor will also help prevent predators reinvading the national parks, and help protect small local reserves.

Restore

Whio/blue duck release, Wainui River. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*



52 pāteke/brown teal released

6 kākā chicks fledged

9 whio/blue duck released

9,404 natives planted

Ron Moorhouse retrieving wild kākā fledgling. *Doug Robinson*

Kākā chicks. *Bruce Vander Lee*

Ron Moorhouse and Doug Robinson attach transmitter to wild kākā fledgling. *Doug Robinson*

Dan Arnold monitoring kākā, Upper Wainui. *Meagan Goodman*

Wild kākā fledgling. *Doug Robinson*

First kākā chicks fledged in park for decades

The mega-mast over summer has seen at least six kākā chicks successfully fledge in the park, for the first time in living memory.

South Island kākā only breed when they know food is plentiful so they have made the most of the beech mast which produces huge amounts of beech seed.

Until recently the charismatic native kākā has been considered "functionally extinct" in the Abel Tasman as only a few wild male kākā remained. Project Janszoon and DOC first began releasing captive raised female kākā into the park in 2015 after undertaking extensive predator control.

Two of the captive bred females have paired with males, with one pairing successfully fledging four chicks, and the other two chicks.

Project Janszoon Director Bruce Vander Lee says it is a major first step to a kākā population recovery in the Abel Tasman.

"This is fantastic news, four kākā have become ten. Captive raised females have not only survived in the wild but found wild males and successfully bred. We are especially pleased the wild males have been able to contribute their genes to the population," says Bruce.

Project Janszoon and DOC rangers braved a swarm of bees to check one nest of kākā chicks. The team were able to attach radio transmitters to five of the chicks before they fledged. This means it will be possible to monitor their progress, with the young birds hopefully breeding during the next beech mast.

Having a viable kākā population in the park is a Tomorrow Accord indicator of successful predator control.

TOMORROW ACCORD

Huge amount of work to bring kākā back to the coast

Precious cargo was carefully transported from the Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi National Parks over summer, in a precisely timed operation to return kākā back to the coast of the Abel Tasman.

It began in late 2018, when DOC rangers and Project Janszoon's ornithologist Ron Moorhouse started looking for female kākā in areas with known healthy populations. They caught the birds using mist nets and attached specially developed egg-timer transmitters to them. Project Janszoon and DOC jointly funded the development of the Skyranger compatible transmitters which are able to indicate when, and where, a bird is nesting.

A fixed wing plane was then able to fly over vast areas of forest to ascertain when nesting was happening. This was a huge labour saver as it meant there was no need to keep checking the nests. Slippery polythene was placed around trees to make it impossible for predators to climb the trunk to reach the nesting birds.

When they judged the timing was right Ron and DOC rangers including Dan Arnold headed back into the hills, to remove the eggs from the wild nests. The eggs, or young chicks, were placed inside small battery operated incubators and gently transported to breeding facilities around the country to be hand raised. In one case the timing was a little tight with a chick hatching in the back of a car en-route to Nelson.

> *"A tremendous amount of work has gone into sourcing these kākā eggs and chicks and it will be an important step in the transformation of the Abel Tasman National Park."*
>
> Ron Moorhouse, Project Janszoon ornithologist

Eleven kākā were successfully hand-raised and all of the wild pairs whose eggs were taken went on to re-nest and have another clutch in the wild. This method was used to reduce the risk of inbreeding and ensures that kākā in the park have the same genetic background as those in other parts of the northern South Island.

"It doesn't get much better than returning birds to the wild," says Ron. It is the first time kākā eggs and nestlings have been taken from wild nests to

Motupipi School students carrying pāteke/brown teal boxes. *Bradley Shields*

Pāteke/brown teal release, Hadfield Clearing. *Helen Young*

Pāteke/brown teal release, Hadfield Clearing. *Brooke Turner*

establish a new population in a predator controlled site. The birds from wild nests complemented the 13 juveniles from the South Island Kākā Captive Breeding programme produced this year. The captive-breeding side of the project was managed by Project Janszoon's Rosemary Vander Lee. The combined flock of 24 manu are being released at Bark Bay/Wairima in September 2019.

Hand rearing is very labour intensive so huge thanks must go to Natureland Wildlife Trust, The Wildlife Hospital Dunedin, Dunedin Botanic Garden, Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, Willowbank Wildlife Reserve, DOC Te Anau, Queens Park Invercargill, Orokonui Ecosanctuary and Bush Haven for their great work rearing the kākā chicks.

Abel Tasman exceeding expectations as pāteke recovery site

The Abel Tasman National Park is now seen as extremely important in the survival of New Zealand's rarest duck, the pāteke/brown teal.

52 pāteke were released on the banks of the lower Awapoto River this financial year, bringing the total translocated to Hadfield Clearing, near Awaroa to 146. These rare ducks are only found at one other site in the South Island.

Pāteke Recovery Group captive coordinator Kevin Evans says the Abel Tasman National Park is now seen as a Category A site for the bird's recovery. Since the first release in 2017 the birds have successfully fledged ducklings.

"The Abel Tasman has ticked all the boxes so far. It is a huge achievement to keep the birds alive and they are breeding which is really positive. This site is an important one for the birds recovery in the wild," he says.

Once the most populous waterfowl on New Zealand's mainland, pāteke are now the rarest duck species, with between 2,000 to 2,500 still living in the wild. Each year twenty birds have radio transmitters attached and in the first two years none have succumbed to introduced predators like stoats, which is a huge tick to the stoat trapping network.

A big thanks to representatives from Manawhenua ki Mohua who bless the manu before they are released, the 14 captive breeders, Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust, Golden Bay High School who have adopted Hadfield Clearing and Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors who have been on hand to help with the pāteke releases.

Having a viable, sustainable, pāteke/brown teal population in the Abel Tasman is a Tomorrow Accord indicator.

TOMORROW ACCORD

Pāteke/brown teal, Hadfield Clearing. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

Whio/blue duck release. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

Whio/blue ducks, Wainui River. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

First whio released into park

Blessing by Arch Deacon Harvey Ruru (Chair Te Atiawa) and Olivia Hall (Chair Ngati Rarua). *Bruce Vander Lee*

For the first time ever whio/blue duck have been translocated to the Abel Tasman National Park.

Nine whio were released into the Wainui and Falls Rivers in two separate releases. They were bred at the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust's Peacock Springs captive breeding facility near Christchurch, from captive pairs sourced from the Rolling River in Kahurangi National Park.

Representatives of Manawhenua ki Mohua and Te Ātiawa were on hand to bless the manu in their new home.

"It's almost like they had been here before. To me that is a very special indication that maybe the manu tupuna of these whio have really welcomed them back to this area, because they just started feeding in the river right away."

Arch Deacon Harvey Ruru, Manawhenua ki Mohua

Whio are the only New Zealand duck that lives in clean, fast flowing rivers and are wonderful to watch as they surf the rapids. There are only an estimated 3,000 left in the wild. While most years there are a couple of sightings in the park, until now, it was not thought there were many whio living in the Abel Tasman.

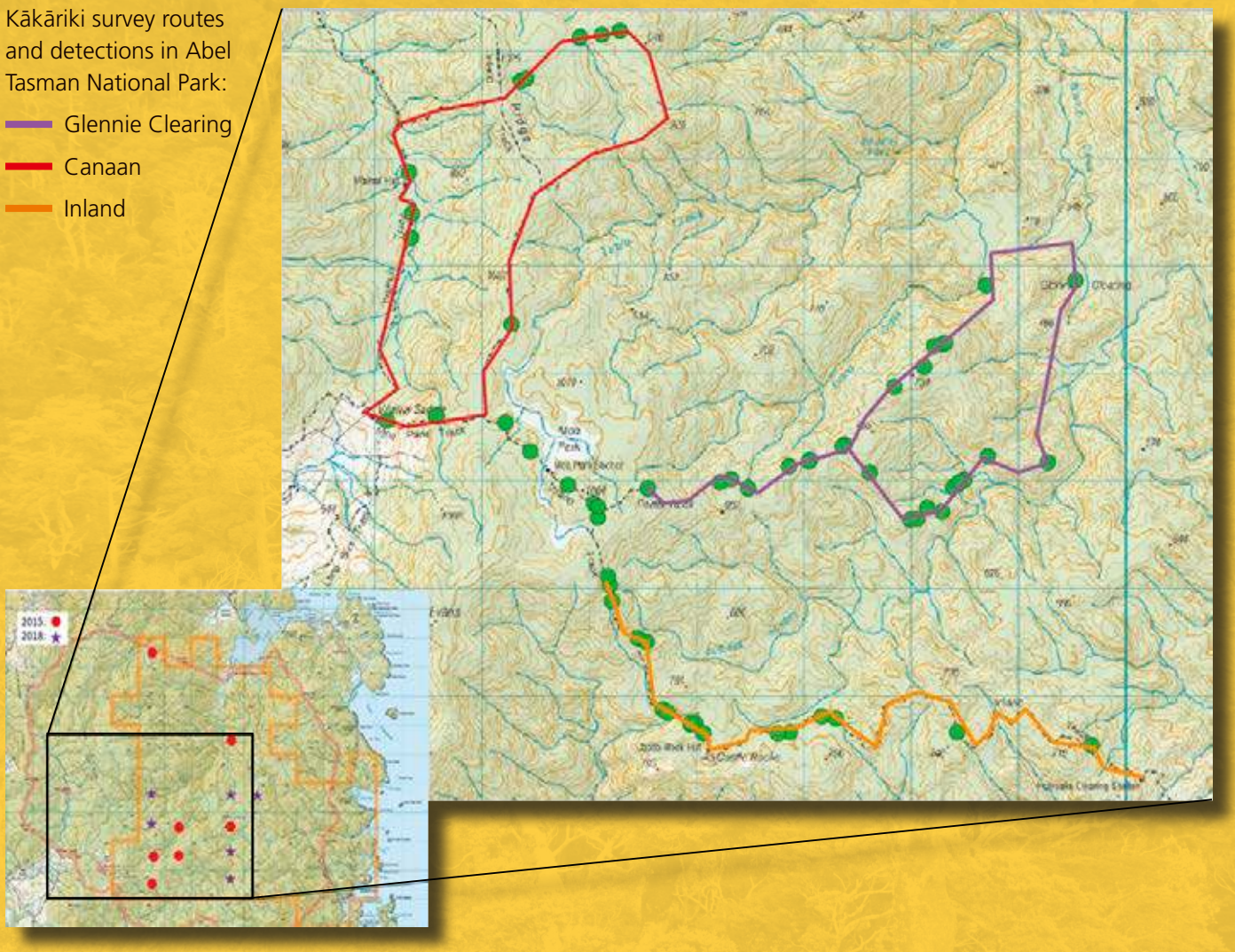
Monitoring is showing the whio are doing well with at least one captive raised female pairing with a wild male. DOC biodiversity ranger John Henderson says the birds appear to have settled in well and DOC plans to check the pairs to see if any have bred in late 2019.

Kākāriki/yellow-crowned parakeet. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

Kākāriki sightings 2015–2019

Kākāriki survey routes and detections in Abel Tasman National Park:

- Glennie Clearing
- Canaan
- Inland



Comprehensive kākāriki survey undertaken

Doug Robinson monitoring kākāriki/ yellow-crowned parakeet on Inland Track. *Doug Robinson*

A survey of kākāriki/yellow crowned parakeets in the park will provide answers as to whether the population is now large enough to be self sustaining or whether we need to release more.

Professor Doug Robinson used his sabbatical from New York's Mount St Mary College to establish how well the 54 kākāriki that have been released since 2014 are doing.

Because the native parakeets are so small and spend most of their time high in the forest canopy it has been hard to judge if they are breeding and thriving in the park. As they breed in beech mast years, when there is a lot of food around, this year was an opportune time to assess their survival.

Doug completed 12 walking surveys, repeating some work done previously by ornithologist Pete Gaze and also using automated audio recorders which are yet to be analysed.

Initially Doug found it hard to detect the birds, but as the breeding season progressed multiple sightings became more common. A total of 56 known kākāriki were detected during the surveys, with another 20 individuals detected while tramping along the survey routes outside of the official survey periods.

"While no nests were found circumstantial evidence indicates breeding was likely taking place, particularly given the increase in kākāriki detected in late March and early April," he says.

The majority of birds were found at high altitudes where aerial 1080 operations had taken place to keep rat numbers low. Overall, more were detected than during previous surveys and their range seems to have increased.

Will kiwi be the next species to return to the Abel Tasman?

Work to bring kiwi back to the Abel Tasman is ongoing.

Project Janszoon and DOC have undertaken soil invertebrate surveys over the last year to assess the availability of food. Earlier surveys in the coastal forest were promising, with sufficient abundance of worms, cicada larvae and large beetle grubs to sustain a viable kiwi population.

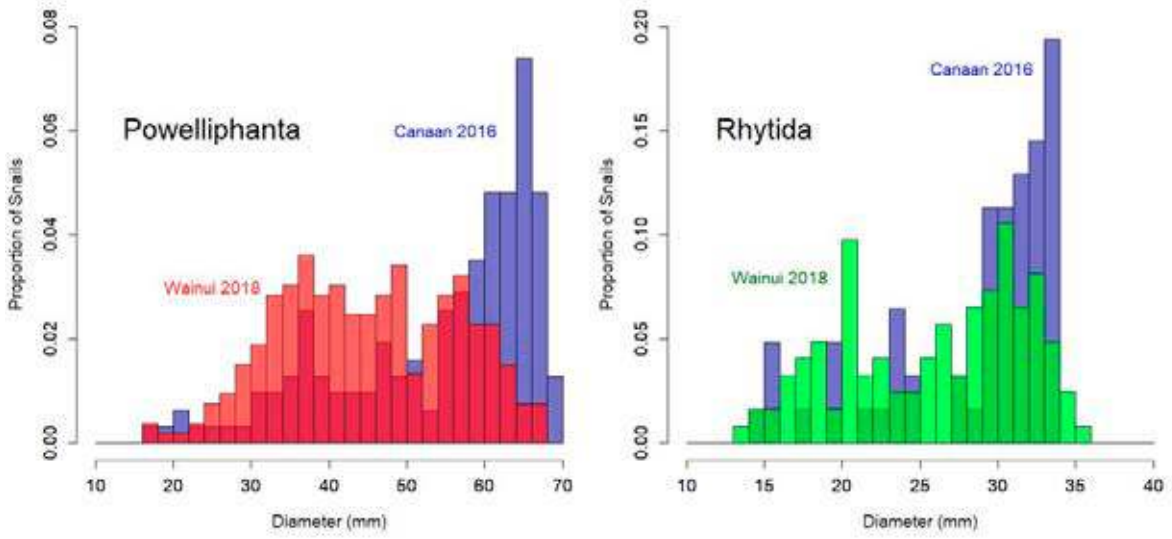
DOC's Kiwi Recovery Group support, in principal, a transfer of Little Spotted Kiwi to the park, a species which is now extinct on the mainland. Once common on both main islands, there are sub-fossil remains of Little Spotted Kiwi from Abel Tasman so we know they used to live in the park.

Their return to the Abel Tasman would be the first reintroduction of this species to the main islands of New Zealand other than into a fenced reserve.

Discussions are now under way about whether to release the manu to the coastal or inland areas of the park.

Weka: *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

Rhytida oconneri. Philip Simpson



The graphs above show plot population estimates and derived density estimates for *P. hochstetteri* and *R. oconnori* from best-fit models in MARK.

Weka on the rise

A forest bird survey has found weka are on the rise in the park, with the flightless birds almost tripling the area they occupy in three years.

This year's survey found the most common bird species in the Abel Tasman are tauhou/silvereyes, riroriro/grey warblers and korimako/bellbirds. Rat sensitive birds like toutouwai/robin, pīpipi/brown creeper and titipounamu/rifleman are limited to the higher altitudes of the park. Project Janszoon scientific advisor Ruth Bollongino says that correlates with rat surveys "the more rats, the less birds".

Weka were once common in Abel Tasman National Park but, for some unknown reason, disappeared in the 1980s and 90s. In 2006 the species was reintroduced at Totaranui using birds captured in the Marlborough Sounds and now weka are being seen throughout the park.

Until now bird monitoring has involved bird counts undertaken by people in the field. Next year Project Janszoon and Air New Zealand are funding acoustic monitors which will be deployed around the park over time to record bird song. These sound recordings will then be analysed. Repeating this survey over time will be useful in assessing whether rat control is sufficient to keep our native forest birds safe.

Canaan snail population increasing

Project Janszoon is now monitoring two native snail populations in the park—one site at Wainui is protected using aerial 1080 predator control, the other at Canaan, is not.

By comparing the native snail populations in both areas we will be able to discover how predator control effects the two endangered carnivorous land snail species in the park: *Powelliphanta hochstetteri hochstetteri* (yellow based), and *Rhytida oconnori*.

This is the first time the snail population at Wainui has been measured using a mark recapture method, where snails are found and tagged at night. It is also the first time the Canaan plot has repeated a mark recapture survey. By repeating the surveys we are able to determine the snails growth rate and the age structure of the population. This, in turn, will make it possible to estimate the timing, and potentially the cause, of the snail populations declining or recovering.

In the three years since the last survey, Canaan's *Powelliphanta* population grew from 264 to 451 snails, although the rarer *Rhytida* population declined from 229 to 144.

At Wainui the snail populations for both species are younger than those at Canaan, which Scientific Advisor Ruth Bollongino says hints to a recovering population. Shell numbers and predation rates seem to be higher at Wainui and shells have stab holes which point to weka being the culprit.

These surveys are being repeated in 2019 which will also help to assess the impact of the beech mast on the snail population. A management plan for pigs in the upland areas of the park is also being developed. It is being primarily designed around snail protection.

ATYA retreat, Hadfield Clearing. *Bertrand Lemeunier*

Lachlan Butler planting at Hadfield Clearing. *Brooke Turner*

Kevin O'Neil planting kahikatea. *Helen Lindsay*

Finn Robertson planting at Hadfield Clearing. *Brooke Turner*

Anne Harwood carrying out plant maintenance at Hadfield Clearing. *Helen Lindsay*

Hadfield Clearing—a gradual transformation

The Hadfield Clearing restoration project has concentrated on enhancing the river banks and planting kahikatea among mānuka stands this year.

Since 2014 over 60,000 native trees, flax and sedges have been planted by volunteers and contractors at the site. Not all of these have survived the very harsh winter conditions, drought and browsing pressure. However the clearing is transforming from an open grassy site to shrubland, in what restoration supervisor Helen Lindsay describes as "gradual progress".

The kahikatea forest remnant at Hadfield Clearing is one of the largest stands of this forest type left in the region and the plan is to extend the remnant over time. Vegetation islands have been created which replicate the natural process of seedling recruitment spreading from a central seed source. This also helps enable easier monitoring and weed control, and will help create the vegetation mosaic typical of this swamp forest type. Later on, a greater variety of species will be able to be infilled.

Over 3,000 kahikatea, New Zealand's forest giant, have already been planted and another 1800 are being grown on in nurseries for planting next year. Volunteers have once again helped throughout the year with planting and maintenance. Thanks to the members of the Nelson/Tasman branch of Forest and Bird, students from Golden Bay High School, Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors, and students from Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology.

Volunteers big part of beech planting project

Volunteers from the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and Motueka High School's Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors have helped monitor beech plantings this year.

The trees are part of trial to grow black beech in areas with low-fertility soils like ridges. As the trees grow it is hoped they will help natives compete with the weed hakea which is thriving in these areas.

Initially beech were planted on Motuareronui/Adele Island in 2014 with plantings extending to the eroded hills behind Anchorage last year. Despite the drought, the trees planted on the island last year had an over 90% survival rate. The beech didn't do as well on the mainland with 68% survival, however the ones that did make it through the long hot summer are not just surviving, they're thriving.

More trees will be planted on both sites when they are available from local nurseries. Overall, 82% of the trees planted on Motuareronui/Adele Island have survived five years.

Restoring key elements of the park's ecology like beech forest is a Tomorrow Accord target.

TOMORROW ACCORD

New beaches being added to Firesmart programme

Many of the park's beaches have been transformed over the last seven years by the Firesmart programme, with the dunes now able to be maintained by volunteers and students from Adopt a Section schools.

Fire is one of the biggest risks to the park so flammable plants like gorse have been removed at popular beaches like Anchorage, Porters Beach, Coquille Bay, Apple Tree Bay, Bark Bay

Motupipi Primary School students planting at Wainui Spit. *Helen Lindsay*

Dave Wilson and Irene Ward planting rātā at Awaroa. *Helen Lindsay*

Rātā, Awaroa. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

Volunteers collecting fertile soil and sowing peppercress seed in Nursery Cove Tonga Island. *Roger Gaskell*

Helen Lindsay, Pinnacle Rock Stack. *Roger Gaskell*

and Medlands. Less flammable, sand binding native species such as spinifex and pīngao have been planted.

Restoration supervisor Helen Lindsay says it is wonderful the beaches are now at a stage where volunteers and schools can keep the areas weeded and ensure the gorse doesn't return. Storm surges have impacted on some plantings but in the main the natives adapt to the changeable dune environment.

Helen says the main focus this year has been keeping gorse from returning. Rather than doing a lot of planting natural recruitment is being allowed to happen, with small plantings to enhance areas. Motupipi School have assisted with extending the planting at Wainui sandspit and Firesmart work is now underway at Onetahuti, Waiharakeke, Goat Bay, Anapai Bay and Totaranui beaches.

The Tomorrow Accord target will be reached when indigenous ecosystems are no longer under pressure from high-risk fire sources.

Myrtle rust risk being closely watched

Nearly 200 Northern rātā have been planted this year, but the discovery of myrtle rust in the nursery where they were being grown has stalled further plantings.

200 rātā trees are being "held over" as a precautionary measure and, so far, they have shown no signs of the disease. This year 124 trees were planted along Awaroa Road, another 57 trees at Awaroa's Mt Rollinson, and one near the Hadfield family grave site to replace a holly tree which was removed to stop its spread into the park. Most survived the summer drought but some did suffer deer browse.

Rātā, with its blooming red summer flowers, is an iconic species in the park for both its floral display and ecological role as a source of nectar.

The Tomorrow Accord milestone will be reached once target rātā numbers have been planted.

Climate change challenges coastal peppercress

The last two summers have been challenging for coastal peppercress on the Abel Tasman Coast—one of the ten most endangered species in New Zealand.

Coastal peppercress *(Lepidium banksii)* has only ever been found around the Nelson coastline, from the Marlborough Sounds to Karamea. Despite a lot of effort from DOC it's very rare but it is still holding on in the Abel Tasman.

Peppercress gardens patiently established over many years were almost completely demolished in early 2018 by Cyclone Fehi and Gita storm surges. Last summer's drought then wiped out most of the plants at Wainui.

However DOC and Project Janszoon volunteers were delighted to find plants on Pinnacle Rock had survived and they have discovered two new healthy patches near South Head.

"This is a testimony to the ability of *Lepidium banksii* to survive in the harshest of habitats during one of the driest summers on record," says DOC's biodiversity ranger Roger Gaskell.

Roger says it is clear increasing climate instability is stacking the odds even further against peppercress. "This emphasises the urgency of finding suitable sites away from the vulnerable rocky shore to ensure its survival."

Andrew Harding with toutouwai/robin about to be translocated to the mainland

Kevin ONeill and Laine Harding weeding at Anchorage

Keeping the backyard in order

Like most people, Laine and Andrew Harding like to keep their backyard in order. But when your backyard is a national park there is a lot of work to do.

The Nelson couple are tireless volunteers. Living on their yacht in the park for weeks on end they love to get their hands dirty to help the conservation efforts underway. "We are walking every day in the park so we may as well do stuff. We are always only 30 minutes away from home and a cup of tea," says Laine.

"The Abel Tasman has given us a huge amount of pleasure. Our kids have grown up on the beaches and tracks and now we are in a position to make a difference," says Andrew.

Andrew reckons he's spent 50 years mucking around in boats in the Abel Tasman. Laine grew up in Invercargill, and came to this region as a first year school teacher, spending her career working predominately with special needs children. Andrew worked in the motor trade. When they both retired around 10 years ago they looked for volunteering opportunities.

Their first job was trapping on Fisherman Island, which they still do. A call in 2012 to Project Janszoon's Devon McLean saw them involved in a penguin survey. They had already pin-pointed around 40 burrows on the island and were able to work with the surveyors to find even more. "We've kept an eye on those burrows over the years. I believe in 2019 they have been fairly heavily used which may be a good sign for blue penguins," says Andrew.

They also work with Project Janszoon's Helen Lindsay weeding, removing gorse, and planting at Anchorage and Apple Tree Bay. "It has made a huge difference. Both of them were covered in gorse not long ago. We had a bit of work to recover after Cyclone Fehi but they are both looking good now," says Andrew.

Add to that, they are line leaders for the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust running a trapping team of 12, and they help with wasp control. The pair are also Trustees with the Tasman Bay Guardians, Andrew is Commodore of the Tasman Bay Cruising Club and they both volunteer for the Cancer Society.

"All in all we are quite busy," says Andrew. Throw in five children, 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild and that might be a bit of an understatement.

Laine says volunteering gives them a great feeling of satisfaction and they see a lot of their work as complementary. "The marine space is close to our heart and the Tasman Bay Guardians mirror what Project Janszoon is doing in the education space. We've put 800 kids through the programme already, schools are lining up to be involved."

Andrew's role as Commodore of the Cruising Club is also a way of getting out bio-security messages to yachties who spend time in the park. Andrew admits he earbashes everyone about the Abel Tasman and how to keep it free of unwanted predators.

"The thing for us is the birds. There has been a huge change over the years and we now hear bellbirds on the mainland. The dawn chorus is now exceptional at Anchorage, it almost rivals Adele," says Laine.

The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust's Abby Butler says Laine and Andrew give an incredible amount to the park. "They are such great advocates for the overall conservation of the Abel Tasman, and enthusiastic and tireless volunteers," she says.

For their part, Laine and Andrew say they feel grateful they are in a position to contribute and they are at pains to mention the great work lots of other people are doing as well.

"We just love it. The more we have done, the more you feel you can do. We have been inspired by the Plowman's who funded Project Janszoon. If more wealthy people contributed as the Plowman's have we could make an even bigger difference."

- 2 new schools join education project
- 1031 students engaged in education programme
- 175 students earned NCEA credits
- 28 days spent with student leaders
- 6,800 people viewed pou whenua video
- 7,096 people download Abel Tasman App

Ngātīmoti School students by the Medlands Beach pou whenua. *Brooke Turner*

Future proof

Ngātīmoti School students at Bark Bay. *Meagan Goodman*

Ngātīmoti School students at Bark Bay. *Meagan Goodman*

Lower Moutere School students making tracking tunnels. *Brooke Turner*

Lower Moutere School students at their new nursery, with caretaker Stuart Newport

Lower Moutere School students at Porters Beach. *Brooke Turner*

Education programme extends

Two new schools joined the education programme in 2019, resulting in more young people connecting with the park.

Ngātīmoti School and Lower Moutere Schools have both adopted sections of the Abel Tasman. Four students from each school have also become Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors.

Education coordinator Brooke Turner says the keenness we are seeing from the new schools is sensational. "They all hit the ground running and are taking every opportunity to connect with the park as part of their curriculum."

A huge thank you to the lead teachers from all of our adopt a section schools, Mark McKenzie, Heidi James, Helen Young, Jane Sorensen, Jude Cullen, Ross Fitzsimmons and Lauren Milnes, There is continued enthusiasm from our inaugural schools and they are able to support the new schools to integrate the park into their whole school learning.

We also welcomed new DOC biodiversity ranger for Project Janszoon Education Meagan Goodman to the team during the year.

> *"The impact on the school has been exciting and positive. It is amazing the opportunities that this has brought to the school, and I am sure that we are the envy of many."*
>
> Chris Bascand, Lower Moutere School principal

Golden Bay High School—Hadfield Clearing

Golden Bay High School have had a busy year. Along with the biology class undertaking its annual vegetation survey the school has been involved in two planting days at its Hadfield Clearing site.

Students and Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors have also taken part in pāteke releases on the lower Awapoto River. The early part of 2019 also saw youth ambassadors take on planning for an eco-blitz at the site in September. The students are pulling together experts in a number of fields like freshwater fish, botany and ornithology.

Lower Moutere School—Marahau to Apple Tree Bay

While Lower Moutere School is new to the education programme in 2019, it has had an ongoing relationship with the park for the last couple of years with a weeding project at Porters Beach.

This year the school has progressively introduced students to its wider project area from Marahau to Apple Tree Bay as well as continuing the Porters Beach project as part of Project Janszoon's Firesmart work. The school has also set up a nursery at the school where they are beginning to propagate plants like mānuka and kānuka to be planted in their section. They are working in collaboration with the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust, helping with maintenance of their plantings.

Motupipi Primary School—Wainui sandspit to Taupo Point

Motupipi School has continued its positive involvement with its site, running planting days and also monitoring changes in invertebrates and plants.

This year they have spent time developing games around the biology of the site which ranges from Wainui sandspit to the rocky Taupo Point. These games include a predators and natives game based on the concept of snakes and ladders, a park puzzle, and a snap game using fish species. Ultimately these games will be distributed in the park.

Motueka High School students, gahnia seed trial, Anchorage. *Helen Lindsay*

Motueka High School students and Dr Hugh Robertson install water data logger. *Heidi James*

ATYA, Anchorage. *Meagan Turner*

ATYA retreat, Totaranui. *Brooke Turner*

ATYA crew, Onetahua marae

Motueka High School—Anchorage to Watering Cove

Motueka High School continues to use the park in its learning with a wide array of subject classes visiting their site including geography, biology and design.

Long term projects students are undertaking in the park include planting beech trees on the ridge line above Anchorage. This is a continuation of the beech tree trial on Motuareronui/Adele Island. It is hoped the trees will ultimately compete with the weed hakea which seems to thrive on these inhospitable ridgelines.

Students are also monitoring fresh water systems using a water data logger at Anchorage with Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors from the school presenting the results from their research to the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society in late 2018.

Ngātīmoti School—Bark Bay

Ngātīmoti School hit the ground running in 2019 managing to get the whole school out to their Bark Bay site in term two. Building a connection to the site has seen a lot of classwork focused on the kākā being released at Bark Bay.

Students have done projects on kākā, including looking at designing signs and info for the Abel Tasman App and Project Janszoon website. A file of information about kākā will be on show at the Bark Bay hut for park visitors to enjoy and also included in the Education Toolbox. The school is also looking at a planting programme to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador programme growing

The addition of two new schools to the education programme has seen the ATYA programme evolve and grow.

Ngātīmoti and Lower Moutere Schools have broadened the age group of ambassadors. This has also meant age appropriate activities have been introduced with the high school aged students being challenged at a higher level and the younger students engaged in ways that are meaningful to them.

"Being part of ATYA is impactful and will stick with these students for the rest of their lives. It is a fantastic opportunity to work on their personal goals and we have seen their confidence grow, in themselves and in each other," says DOC biodiversity ranger for Project Janszoon Education Meagan Goodman.

"Project Janszoon has created an excellent leadership pathway for our students. Being selected as an Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador has been uplifting and affirming for four of our students this year. These positions are highly regarded and these students are held in high esteem. Having the opportunity to work with the Project Janszoon team has been a great privilege and source of pride for us all."

Ali Turner, Ngātīmoti School Principal

Motupipi Primary School students Aonghus Garbutt and Lochie Child. *Brooke Turner*

ATYA visit to Wainui. *Brooke Turner*

Golden Bay High School student and Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador Ihaka Griffith receives scholarship from Project Janszoon director Bruce Vander Lee. *Brooke Turner*

Margie Little, Chrissy Griffith, John Ward-Holmes, Ihaka Griffith, Bruce Vander Lee, Mark Mackenzie, Robyn Slow and Bev Purdie. *Brooke Turner*

Golden Bay High School—Lily McRae, Rosie Brown, Mark MacKenzie (teacher), Oliver Gray, Ihaka Griffith and Bradley Shields. *Brooke Turner*

In their own words

"The Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors are a very passionate and conservation minded group. I know from my experience that it is a joy and a privilege to be among such a like-minded and talented group of people and it was an honour to call myself an ambassador of the Abel Tasman. I found the year a fun and eye opening experience as to how special the Abel Tasman really is. Being involved with Project Janszoon has opened up many doorways for me and I couldn't be more grateful. I feel that this year was one of the best years of my life thanks to the people of ATYA."

Bradley Shields, Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador, Golden Bay High School

"I felt so lucky when I was chose to be an Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador because we get to do special things that others don't. The best part about being an ATYA is that we get to release special birds into the park. I have released the pāteke and blue duck. One animal I would like to see in the Abel Tasman in the future is the kiwi. It would be awesome to go into the park one day and wake up in the night to the sound of kiwi calling and I can't wait until the future to see more kākā in the wild."

Lochie Child, Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador, Motupipi School

First recipient of Conservation Education Scholarship

Golden Bay High School and Onetahua Marae's Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador representative Ihaka Griffith is the first recipient of the Conservation Education Scholarship.

The $1,000 scholarship was launched last year for students to further their learning in the conservation, ecology or leadership fields. Ihaka, who is still at school, plans to use the funds to "further my knowledge and understanding of how ecology and engineering/technology can work together to enhance conservation in Aotearoa".

Ihaka plans to visit Project Janszoon's fellow project, Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP), a research and development agency looking at ways to enable a predator free New Zealand. ZIP work with engineers in Lincoln at its predator behaviour research facility and then undertakes field trials at sites around New Zealand.

Ihaka says he is very grateful for the opportunity the scholarship has given him. "Over three years Project Janszoon and DOC have supported me and pushed me. Thanks for your confidence in me, it means a huge amount."

On behalf of Ihaka's whānau Bev Purdie says it has been a joy to see Ihaka's confidence building to a stage where he has developed his thinking and problem solving skills and can see a pathway for himself.

Teacher support for education programme fantastic

Seven years ago Mark MacKenzie arrived for a ten-week fixed-term contract as a teacher at Golden Bay High School. He spent those ten weeks finding every possible excuse to stay.

It seems to be a bit of a habit. Mark was one of the inaugural teachers involved in the Abel Tasman education programme and five years on he is still an enthusiastic and committed member.

So what made him want to stay in Golden Bay? "It was a nice small school with brilliant kids and two national parks close by. There was an instant appeal," says Mark.

Fresh from a career change prompted by the Christchurch earthquakes, Mark saw an incredible opportunity with the education programme. "There was an opportunity to get more students

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex. *Mark Tantrum, marktantrum.com*

Prince Harry meeting ATYA at Totaranui. *Robyn Janes*

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex.
Mark Tantrum, marktantrum.com

Meghan and Harry
meeting ATYA

Prince Harry meeting ATYA at Totaranui

into the park on a regular basis. Most students had been to Totaranui but the park is so much more than the beaches", he says.

Primarily a biology teacher, Mark also teaches aquaculture, chemistry and science. Over the five years, his biology classes have surveyed tree distribution at the Hadfield Clearing site annually. "We have noticed a real change. Pest control is making a tangible difference, we are seeing the understory and ground cover coming back. So far, each year's class has taken an annual snapshot of the vegetation distribution in the survey, but Mark is keen to see a longitudinal study undertaken which will document the change over the years.

Mark is also involved in ATYA and says it is heartening to see more and more students apply to be part of the ambassador programme and be involved in hands on learning activities in the park.

A right royal welcome

When they signed up to be Abel Tasman Youth Ambassadors our 14 ATYA students never expected to meet royalty. But on 29 October 2018 the youth ambassadors did an amazing job representing the park when they welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Suffolk to Totaranui.

The weather was not the best so after a pōwhiri by local iwi, Harry and Meghan mixed and mingled with the students. Our ambassadors were impressed with the royal couple.

"Seeing these people in the flesh, who you normally see on your screen, was an awesome moment for me. They were both equally charming and asked me about what we were doing for conservation."

May Takahashi, Motueka High School

"They asked us about what we were doing with ATYA and seemed really genuine with their responses."

Saskia Grey, Te Awhina Marae and Motueka High School

"They appeared to be really authentic in their questions and what they were asking us."

Kye Childs, Golden Bay High School

"They could make conversation really easily. I invited them to come camping at our favourite camping ground at Totaranui and she was quite taken with the idea."

Helen Young, Motupipi Primary School teacher

Thanks

Special thanks for their support of the education and Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador programmes to Bev Purdie from Manawhenua ki Mohua, and DOC staff Ross Maley, Chris Golding, Dirk de Vries, Barney Thomas, Aroha Gilling, Jim Livingstone, Dan Arnold, John Hendersen, Alice Hivernat, Phil Armit , Dave Winterburn, Andrew Lamasen, Mike Ogle, Hugh Robertson and Fay Mckenzie.

Project Janszoon and DOC are also very appreciative of the support from Abel Tasman Sea Shuttle who provide transport for hundreds of students and ambassadors into the park.

Tūturiwhatu/banded dotterel, Awaroa. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

New website launched

The Project Janszoon website was relaunched in September 2018 resulting in more people using the website and spending more time on the site.

As part of the website revamp two new Abel Tasman "Toolboxes" were added. These toolboxes were designed to give locals, visitors and education providers access to expert advice, activities and helpful information about visiting the park.

A forum for in-depth case studies and an "Ask an Expert" forum was also included to give the public the opportunity to ask scientific and conservation specialists questions about the park, its wildlife, and the conservation efforts underway. The website still includes popular sections like the Abel Tasman webcams at Awaroa, Anchorage, Astrolabe and Torrent Bay.

In the ten months since the website was relaunched 14,462 people used the site, a 7% increase on the same period the year before. The bounce rate, whereby people leave the site within a few seconds or arriving dropped by 25% and the average time a visitor spends on the site increased by 25% from 1 min 36 secs to an average of 2 minutes.

"There are some really great resources for the team at the Lodge to use with our younger guests."

Nona Jackson, Awaroa Lodge

"Congratulations on the fine effort with the new 'toolboxes'. A great effort and very informative/easy to use."

Robert Kay, Little Anchorage

Webcams help improve public safety in Anchorage and Awaroa

Project Janszoon's solar powered Wi-Fi system is continuing to be used in a variety of ways.

A collaboration with the local harbour master has seen the webcams in Anchorage and Awaroa being used to help monitor public safety. Project Janszoon has given the harbourmaster 24-hour access to images from the cameras so complaints about the speed and wake of passing boats that cause safety concerns can be followed up.

Visitors and residents had been concerned about boat speed and feedback from the harbourmaster is that skippers are now behaving in a safer manner.

The Wi-Fi network also supports the day to day running of the park including campground operations at Totaranui. DOC also use the network with its new internet booking system, giving rangers easier access to up-to-date booking details and the ability to take EFTPOS payments from park visitors.

Abel Tasman App enhanced

A new day walks section has been added to the Abel Tasman App which is proving popular with park visitors and operators.

The day walks section provides information on the five most popular walks which make up the Coastal Track. It also includes day walk options from Anchorage with plans to include options from Totaranui for the coming summer.

Ngātīmoti School students visit Medlands Beach pou whenua. *Brooke Turner*

Down the Bay—A natural and cultural history of Abel Tasman National Park

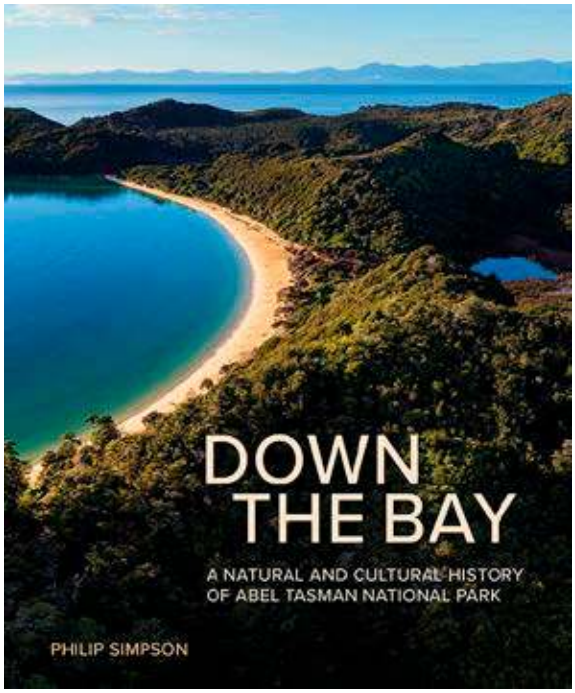
It took four years of wandering the paths of the Abel Tasman National Park soaking up a wealth of information along the way, and in December 2018 author and Project Janszoon director Dr Philip Simpson launched his comprehensive book on the park.

Written with the support of Project Janszoon, Philip says he felt very privileged to have been able to write *Down the Bay—A natural and cultural history of Abel Tasman National Park*.

"As a botanist I normally write about trees but in this book I had to consider the whole ecosystem. I have had the freedom to spend day after day, week after week, month after month, studying the place, learning about the place, meeting experts. It has been a wonderful experience," he says.

The book covers all aspects of the Abel Tasman: from the formation of the land, the climate and vegetation, its hidden treasures, history, native fauna and the personalities who have lived and worked in the park.

"Writing a book on the park has been a special experience because its bringing all the aspects together. My job has been to package it up in as informative, as comprehensive, a way as possible,



and the publishers have done a marvellous job. They've produced a book that is worthy to buy and to read," says Philip.

The book is published by Potton and Burton and has proved popular, making the long-list for the 2019 New Zealand Book Awards. It is available in all good bookstores.

Video tells story of pou whenua

Project Janszoon was delighted to work with Te Ātiawa this year to produce a video that tells the story of Hohaia Rangiauru, a Motueka Chief of Te Ātiawa.

The pou whenua of Hohaia Rangiauru stands at the gateway to Medlands Beach, holding a tokotoko (walking stick) to represent his authority as an important rangatira (chief). He played a key role as a crucial witness in native land court hearings, a large part of his whānau's history.

Hohaia spent his whole life at Motueka where he became an influential chief and a significant landowner. He was persistent in seeking redress for lands that he believed had been taken from his family and friends without compensation. As the only witness for Te Atiawa in the 1892–1893 Native Land Court hearings regarding the Nelson Tenths Trust, Hohaia ensured his iwi's title to their customary land was recognised.

Project Janszoon's Robyn Janes worked with descendants John Katene and Terry Hopa to tell the story of Hohaia Rangiauru's legacy. The video can be viewed on the Abel Tasman App, websites and social media and has been popular with those wanting to know about pou whenua in the park. It has hoped we can continue to tell the stories of pou whenua as they are erected in the Abel Tasman.

https://youtu.be/IAnbrleseWs

Project Janszoon board

Barrie Brown – Director, Bruce Vander Lee – Project Director,
Devon McLean – Director, Gillian Wratt – Chair, at Bark Bay

Dr Philip Simpson
Director

David Flacks
Director

Jorrod Buchanan
Director

Project Janszoon team

It's not often we get the entire Project Janszoon team together. Although we didn't quite pull it off we didn't do too badly with this photo at Bark Bay:

Ruth Bollongino – Scientific Consultant, John Henderson – DOC Biodiversity Ranger, Dan Arnold – DOC Biodiversity Ranger, Chris Golding – DOC Motueka Operations Manager, Rosemary Vander Lee – Aviculturist, Bruce Vander Lee – Project Director, Jim Livingstone – DOC Senior Biodiversity Ranger, Roy Grose – DOC Northern South Island Operations Director, Meagan Goodman – DOC Biodiversity Ranger Education, Brooke Turner – Education Co-ordinator, Devon McLean – Director, Kristiane Ellery – DOC Biodiversity Ranger, Dr Philip Simpson – Director, Robyn Janes – Communications

Andrew Macalister
Operations Manager

Marika Kingan
Executive Assistant

Ron Moorhouse
Ornithologist

Helen Lindsay
Restoration Supervisor

Josh Preston
DOC Biodiversity Ranger

Helen Otley
DOC Biodiversity Ranger
Supervisor

Kākā. *Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com*

Financial Statements

Project Janszoon Trust
For the year ended 30 June 2019

Contents

pwc

Independent Auditors' Report

to the Trustee of Project Janszoon Trust

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019;
- the statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year then ended;
- the statement of changes in trust funds for the year then ended;
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a statement of accounting policies.

Our opinion

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements of Project Janzsoon Trust (the "Trust"), present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2019, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)) and International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We are independent of the Trust in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) *Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* (PES 1) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Trust.

Information other than the financial statements and auditor's report

The Trustee is responsible for the financial statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information included in the financial statements and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

pwc

Responsibilities of the Trustee for the financial statements

The Trustee is responsible, on behalf of the Trust, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime, and for such internal control as the Trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee either intends to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs NZ and ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the External Reporting Board's website at:

https://www.xrb.govt.nz/standards-for-assurance-practitioners/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-8/

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Who we report to

This report is made solely to the Trustee. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state those matters which we are required to state to the Trustee in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the Trustee for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Karl Deutschle.

For and on behalf of:

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Chartered Accountants
11 November 2019

Auckland

Trust Directory

Project Janszoon Trust
For the year ended 30 June 2019

Charities Registration Number

CC47879

Nature of Business

Charitable Trust

Settlor

Hutton Wilson Nominees Limited

Trustee

Project Janszoon Trust Company Limited

Accountants

The Business Advisory Group Limited
P O Box 162, Shortland St
Auckland

Banker

Bank of New Zealand

Date of Formation

22 December 2011

Solicitor

Bell Gully
Auckland

Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers
188 Quay St
Auckland

Entity's Purpose or Mission

To address the ecological restoration of the Abel Tasman National Park

Main Sources of Entity's Cash and Resources

The restoration of the Abel Tasman National Park has been made possible by the generosity of a philanthropic Trust in partnership with the Department of Conservation.

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses

Project Janszoon Trust
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	NOTES	2019	2018
Revenue			
Distribution Received - Hadfields		-	12,500
Distributions Received	8	2,100,000	2,200,000
Interest Received		278	197
Donations Received		43,721	16,778
Total Revenue		**2,143,999**	**2,229,475**
Expenses			
Accountancy Fees		27,841	35,510
Advertising		3,743	-
Audit Fees		10,500	8,663
Bank Charges		81	112
Board Fees		24,000	12,000
Conference & Events		758	11,407
Consultancy	8	566,860	352,796
Consultancy - Department of Conservation		1,154,287	1,190,334
Entertainment		10,137	2,515
General Expenses		21,349	16,458
Hadfields Direct Costs		68,378	17,038
Kiwi/Zoo Program		5,503	-
Legal Expenses		190	190
Management Fees		-	16,620
Pest Eradication		72,230	-
Printing & Stationery		4,380	6,221
Rent		6,240	2,600
Repairs & Maintenance		983	-
Revegetation		69,454	128,097
Subcontractors		-	2,009
Telephone, Tolls & Internet		1,212	619
Travel - National		36,543	62,520
Website Costs		61,669	68,172
Total Expenses		**2,146,338**	**1,933,881**
Less Depreciation & Amortisation			
Depreciation as per Schedule	3	4,928	709
Amortisation as per Schedule	4	38,931	67,129
Total Less Depreciation & Amortisation		**43,859**	**67,838**
Total Comprehensive Revenue and (Expenses) for the Year		**(46,198)**	**227,756**

Statement of Changes in Trust Funds

Project Janszoon Trust
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
Trust Funds		
Funds Settled		
Opening Balance	100	100
Total Funds Settled	**100**	**100**
Retained Earnings		
Opening Balance	(73,125)	(300,881)
Total Comprehensive Revenue and (Expenses) for the Year	(46,198)	227,756
Total Retained Earnings	**(119,323)**	**(73,125)**
Total Trust Funds	**(119,223)**	**(73,025)**

Statement of Financial Position

Project Janszoon Trust
As at 30 June 2019

	NOTES	30 JUN 2019	30 JUN 2018
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	2	157,203	52,935
Goods and Services Tax Refundable		129,448	185,724
Other Receivables		2,000	-
Total Current Assets		**288,651**	**238,659**
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	3	43,611	708
Intangible Assets	4	39,555	70,986
Total Non-Current Assets		**83,166**	**71,694**
Total Assets		**371,817**	**310,353**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	8	160,495	38,417
Accrued Expenses		330,545	344,961
Total Current Liabilities		**491,040**	**383,378**
Total Liabilities		**491,040**	**383,378**
Net Assets		**(119,223)**	**(73,025)**
Trust Funds			
Funds Settled		100	100
Retained Earnings		(119,323)	(73,125)
Total Trust Funds		**(119,223)**	**(73,025)**

Signed on behalf of the Corporate Trustee, Project Janszoon Trust Company Limited by:

GB Wratt

As Director of the Corporate Trustee

As Director of the Corporate Trustee

Date: 8/11/19

Statement of Cash Flows

Project Janszoon Trust
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	NOTES	2019	2018
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Distributions	9	2,100,000	2,200,000
Interest Received		278	197
Donations		43,721	29,278
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to Suppliers		(1,985,450)	(2,195,360)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities		**158,549**	**34,115**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment		(54,281)	(46,340)
Total Cash was applied to:		**(54,281)**	**(46,340)**
Total Cash Flows from Investing Activities		**(54,281)**	**(46,340)**
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash		**104,268**	**(12,225)**
Bank Accounts and Cash			
Opening cash		52,935	65,160
Closing cash		157,203	52,935
Net change in cash for period		**104,268**	**(12,225)**

Statement of Accounting Policies

Project Janszoon Trust
For the year ended 30 June 2019

1. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices in New Zealand ("NZ GAAP"). They comply with Public Benefit Entity International Public-Sector Accounting Standards ("PBE IPSAS") and other applicable financial reporting standards as appropriate that have been authorised for use by the External Reporting Board for Not-For-Profit entities. For the purpose of complying with NZ GAAP, the Company is a public benefit not-for-profit entity and is eligible to apply Tier 2 Not-For-Profit PBE IPSAS on the basis that it does not have public accountability and it is not defined as large.

The entity has elected to report in accordance with Tier 2 Not-For-Profit PBE Accounting Standards and in doing so has taken advantage of any applicable Reduced Disclosure Regime ("RDR") disclosure concessions.

These financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars rounded to the nearest dollar.

(a) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

(b) Fixed Assets

The entity has the following classes of fixed assets;

Plant & Equipment	8.5% - 50% DV

All fixed assets are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation, if any. Depreciation of the fixed assets has been calculated at the rate which reflect the expected useful life of the asset. Fixed assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis.

(c) Intangible Assets and Amortisation

The entity has the following classes of intangible assets;

Website Design & Development	50% DV

All intangible assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortisation, if any. Amortisation of the intangible assets has been calculated at the rates which reflect the expected useful life of the asset. Intangible assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis.

(d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is registered for GST. All amounts are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST) except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

(e) Revenue Recognition

Interest on deposits are recognised on an accrual basis.
Distributions are recognised on an accrual basis.
Donations are recognised on an accrual basis.

(f) Income Tax

No provision for Income Tax has been made as Project Janszoon Trust is a charitable trust which is exempt from Income Tax.

(g) Receivables

Receivables are stated at their estimated realisable value. Bad debts are written off in the year in which they are identified.

(h) Expense Recognition

Expenses are recognised on an accrual basis.

	2019	2018
2. Cash at Bank		
BNZ 000	125,135	49,625
BNZ - 01	32,068	3,310
Total Cash at Bank	**157,203**	**52,935**

	2019	2018
3. Fixed Assets		
Plant & Equipment	49,831	2,000
Depreciation	(6,220)	(1,292)
Total Fixed Assets	**43,611**	**708**

	2019	2018
4. Intangible Assets		
Website	387,910	380,410
Amortisation	(348,355)	(309,424)
Total Intangible Assets	**39,555**	**70,986**

5. Contingent Liabilities

At balance date there are no known contingent liabilities (2018:$Nil)

6. Capital Expenditure Commitments

There were no future capital commitments at year end (2018:$Nil)

7. Subsequent Events to Balance Date

There have been no events subsequent to balance date that require disclosure in or adjustment to these financial statements.

8. Related Parties

During the year, Project Janszoon Trust received distributions of $2,100,000 (2018: $2,200,000) from Hutton Wilson Charitable Trust,a related party significantly influenced by key management personnel.

During the year, management fees of $16,480 (2018: $17,302) were paid to Prow Consulting Limited, a company that is owned and operated by a director of the Corporate Trustee, for services provided in the management of the project of the Trust of which $1,384 (2018: $1,403) was owed at year end.

During the year, Project Janszoon Trust was reimbursed $243 from Te Manahuna Aoraki, a related party significantly influenced by key management personnel.

During the year, Project Janszoon Trust was reimbursed $6,992 from Taranaki Mounga Project, a related party significantly influenced by key management personnel.

9. Reconciliation of Total Comprehensive Revenue and (Expenses) for the Year with Cash Inflow from Operating Activities

	2019	2018
Total Comprehensive Revenue and (Expenses) for the Year	(46,198)	227,756
Depreciation	4,928	709
Amortisation	38,931	67,129
Increase in Other Receivables	(2,000)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	177,304	(591,110)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accrued Expenses	(14,416)	329,631
Total Reconciliation of Total Comprehensive Revenue and (Expenses) for the Year with Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	**158,549**	**34,115**

Little spotted moa, *Drymoanthus flavus*. *Philip Simpson*