

Project Janszoon

Leaving a lasting legacy in Abel Tasman National Park

Project Janszoon was the first privately-funded landscape-scale restoration project of its kind in New Zealand.

In 2012 Abel Tasman National Park looked like an unspoilt natural paradise, but ecologically it was in trouble. Fourteen years and more than \$21 million later, the results are tangible.

Birdsong has increased. Forest canopies are healthier. Ecosystems are becoming more resilient and a culture of care has developed.

It's a blueprint for what government, community, science and philanthropy can achieve together.



Kākā. Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com

"We were passionate and lucky enough to have the funds to support Project Janszoon. But we needed the strength of partnership to bring the vision to life."

Annette Plowman
NEXT Foundation benefactor

"What an incredibly generous gift to have made to the whenua. The Mauri here is healing and it feels a real privilege to be part of this."

Rōpata Taylor
Chair Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust

"Project Janszoon has shown that ecological transformation requires long-term commitment, enduring partnerships and the willingness to keep learning and adapting."

Gillian Wratt
Project Janszoon Chair

Hadfield Clearing was the site of one of the largest remnant stands of kahikatea swamp forest in the Nelson/Tasman region, but gorse and blackberry were taking over the drained pasture. Project Janszoon planted over 44,000 natives, and the recovering wetland is now home to threatened species like pāteke/ brown teal and kotoreke/ marsh crake.

Wetland restoration



Planting at Hadfield Clearing. Helen Lindsay

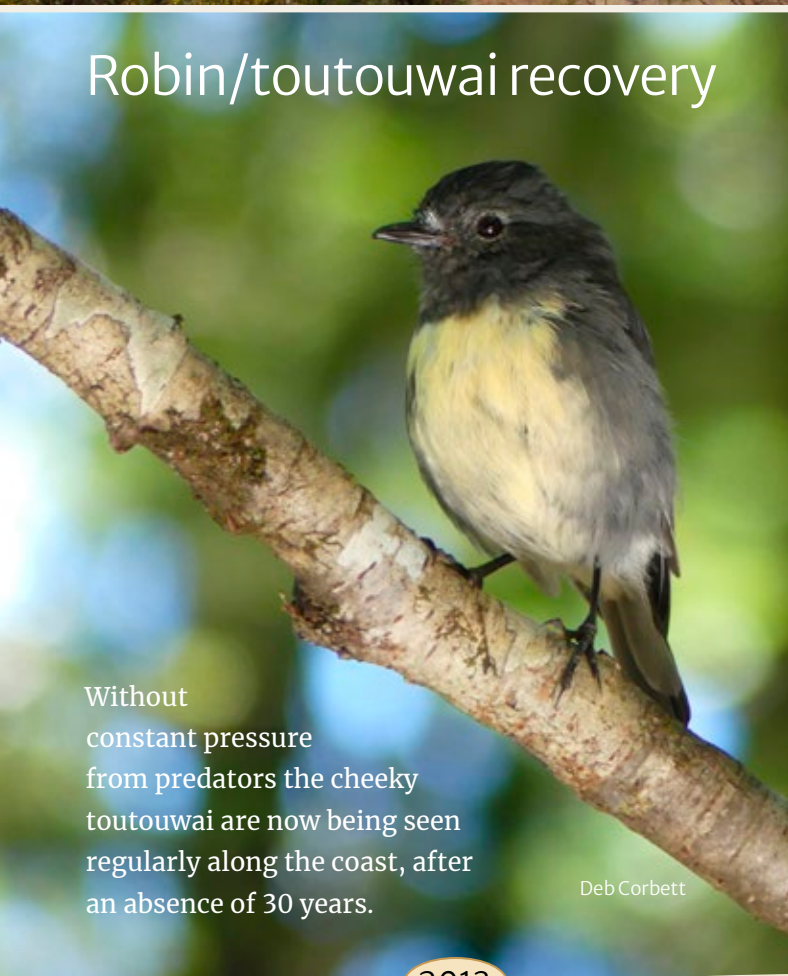


Hadfield Clearing 2014. Helen Lindsay



Hadfield Clearing 2026. Helen Lindsay

Robin/toutouwai recovery



Without constant pressure from predators the cheeky toutouwai are now being seen regularly along the coast, after an absence of 30 years.

Deb Corbett

Kākā increase



38 kākā released to join the few remaining male kākā. The population is now estimated at 100 and counting.

Ruth Bollongino

2012

Project Janszoon established

2013

First trapping network activated, Abel Tasman App launched, Firesmart dune restoration begins

2014

Education programme launched, Tomorrow Accord signed, first wasp control trial, first kākāriki released, Hadfield Clearing restoration begins

2015

First kākā released, Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador programme launched, Winner Supreme award at Green Ribbon Awards, rātā planting programme begins

Restoring nature takes time and commitment

The Project Janszoon model was different. A combination of long-term philanthropic investment, strong partnerships, and business rigour enabled the project to do the “heavy lifting” to achieve lasting ecological transformation in the Abel Tasman National Park.

Step one: **SECURE** – protect existing ecological values

The greatest gains came from tackling the pressures across the entire park. By controlling predators and invasive weeds at scale, native plants and wildlife had the opportunity to recover.

- **22,530 hectares**
Protected through landscape-scale predator control
- **Goat control**
Over 7,000 goats removed from park and halo
- **Large-scale weed control**
Wilding pines and invasive species controlled
- **Firesmart programme**
Removing flammable gorse from dunes and replanting natives

Step two: **RESTORE** – restoring ecosystems and reintroducing natives

By reducing predators and invasive weeds, native species were able to return to places they hadn't been seen for decades.

- **55,000 native plants established**
Restoring wetlands, dunes and forests
- **Two native snail sanctuaries**
Built to protect critically endangered snails from weka and other predators
- **532 native birds released**
Kākāriki, kākā, whio and pāteke populations establishing
- **Rātā and mistletoe**
Re-establishing

Step three: **FUTURE PROOF** – embedding a passion for ongoing conservation

Establishing a culture of care, ensured others have the skills, relationships and confidence to continue the work.

- **More than 10,000 students**
Inspired through education programmes
- **Tomorrow Accord signed**
Ensuring ecological gains made are maintained by DOC into the future
- **Strong partnerships developed**
Between mana whenua, DOC, scientists, community volunteer groups, schools and philanthropists
- **Abel Tasman App**
Telling the stories of the park's history and conservation journey

2017

First pāteke/
brown teal release,
last stand of
mature wilding
pines controlled

2018

First whio/blue duck
release, kākā chicks
fledge for first time
in decades

2021

2,000th stoat
trapped

2022

Two weka-
proof snail
sanctuaries built

2023

Goat control
programme ramps up,
toutouwai/robin return
to coastal lowlands

2026

Handover to DOC,
Te Here ā Nuku Trust,
mana whenua,
and Abel Tasman
Birdsong Trust

Together, we have made a difference

In July 2026, Project Janszoon concluded its 14-year journey.

Thank you to the philanthropists who dared to think differently. To the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust, the Department of Conservation (DOC), iwi (Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama and Te Ātiawa), researchers, contractors, volunteers, educators, tourism operators, neighbours and supporters.

The systems, knowledge, partnerships and momentum created provide a strong foundation for the future. And, the project's influence has extended far beyond Abel Tasman National Park with the model of collaborative conservation partnerships now being replicated around Aotearoa.

This isn't the end of the story. It's the beginning of the park's next chapter.

Motuaronui/Adele Island. David Buckton



Kākā chicks. Ron Moorhouse



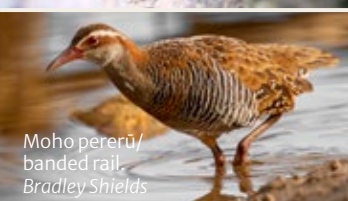
Motupipi School students



Powelliphanta hochstetteri. Stefan Marks



Lower Moutere School students release whio/blue ducks. Ruth Bollongino



Moho pererū/
banded rail.
Bradley Shields



Motueka High School students



Volunteers at Hadfield Clearing
Helen Lindsay



Whio/blue ducks. Ruth Bollongino



Nelson green gecko
(*Naultinus stellatus*)
Helen Lindsay



Waimea College
students



Kākāriki/yellow-crowned parakeet
Ruth Bollongino



Ngātimoti
School
student



Watch our video

www.janszoon.org

"If you had a Project Janszoon for every national park in New Zealand the challenge of biodiversity we have now would be far, far less."

Martin Rodd, Department of Conservation
Director of Operations Northern South Island



Pāteke/brown teal. Ruth Bollongino, www.fernphotos.com