



TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS!

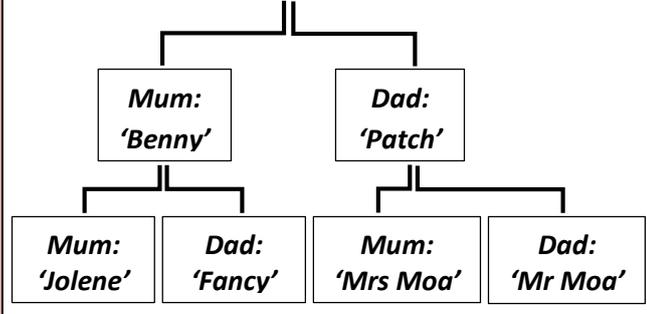


It has been an incredible start of the Kiwi season! Since our last newsletter update (way back in August) it has been a full house in our incubation and brooder rooms, so much so that we had to urgently purchase a new Forced Draft Incubator to fit all of the kiwi eggs in! A massive thanks to the Department of Conservation for this generous purchase. At the highest level, we had 42 eggs incubating until they all finally started to hatch. This, of course, led to maximum occupancy in the brooder room and some rather creative thinking to get all these little precious bundles of fluff though to release. So far we have hatched and raised 47 chicks, plus cared for two wild hatched chicks in our ICU. That is an extra 13 chicks above where we were at this time last season! There has been a fantastic number of new breeding birds producing lovely healthy chicks, including a very special bird called 'Tuarua' (see photo right). 'Tuarua' (translation: second) is the offspring of 'Benny' and 'Patch', two chicks that we raised way back in the 2010/11 season and our very first 2nd generation chick! It was a very proud moment for our kiwi rangers to release 'Tuarua' into a crèche a couple of weeks ago, along with another Rowi called 'Rangi' who happens to be 'Tuarua's' aunty or uncle! 'Rangi' is the offspring of 'Jolene' and 'Fancy' for this season, who are 'Tuarua's' maternal grandparents. There are second clutch eggs incubating now which will be ready to hatch at the end of the month so our kiwi rangers are taking advantage of some spare time to do the second favourite part of their job – cleaning!

Eggs Incubating	12
Chicks Hatched	47
Rowi in Nocturnal House	4



'Tuarua' Hatched 6/11/15



Sponsor a Kiwi Chick for Christmas!

If you are looking for something a bit different to gift to your loved ones this Christmas, how about sponsoring an endangered Kiwi chick? Packages start at \$50 and include a certificate, a profile on your sponsored chick, kiwi fact sheets, and newsletter updates that are due to hatch on Christmas day! An opportunity not to be missed!



anna Johnstone

NOCTURNAL HOUSE CHANGE AROUND

Now is a great time to come and visit our Nocturnal House with three new arrivals to meet – 'Obelix', 'Jamieson' and 'Max'. These three Rowi hatched at the end of October and have been slowly getting used to their new environment since mid-November. They all have very different personalities and are getting along well, despite the odd playful scrap they are usually found cuddled up together in the same burrow every morning. Our large juvenile 'Inca' is currently in quarantine and is due for release onto Motuara Island next week. This will be a great chance for her to stretch her legs and learn some essential life skills before final release back into the Okarito Kiwi population.