

WHAT AN AMAZING SEASON!

The kiwi rearing season has rounded up a little early this season, with a massive 59 Rowi and 15 Haast tokoeka chicks hatched, raised and released from the West Coast Wildlife Centre. A high number of the kiwi pairs bred early in the season, most likely due to weather patterns and its influences on environment and breeding behaviour in the wild. This early egg production lead to a couple of months of very frantic activity in our incubation and brooder rooms, with the record sitting at 5 chicks hatching in one day! Our last two chicks are due to be released from the brooder room over the next week, which will allow some much needed time to catch up on paperwork....!! We hit some great milestones this season with our 200th Rowi hatched, our 100th Haast tokoeka hatched and our first second generation chick coming through (offspring of two chicks raised at WCWC in 2010), which were all great celebrations for the team. We have also just released a very interesting young chick to Willowbank Wildlife Reserve who happens to be a wild hybrid between Rowi and Little Spotted kiwi parents. It has been fascinating raising this bird and we have seen some very different characteristics shining through compared to 'pure bred' Rowi chicks. This chick could hold some potentially vital genes for the threatened Little Spotted Kiwi population. The Little Spots have the lowest genetic diversity of all Kiwi species with the entire population of 1500 birds descended from very few individuals on offshore islands. Watch this space!

Eggs Incubating	0
Chicks Hatched	74
Rowi in Nocturnal House	2



NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC!
 The March edition of NZ Geographic has hit the shelves and it has an amazing article about the plight of the critically endangered Rowi. A very interesting story to read about the program and a beautiful chick gracing the cover page!



Governor General's Visit to Franz
Recently the West Coast Wildlife Centre had the honour to host a visit from NZ Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae and Lady Janine Mateparae. Their excellencies came to learn about the critically endangered Rowi Kiwi and to meet their sponsored Rowi chick 'Huru' (feather). It was a pleasure to meet them and their team and help them learn more about one of NZ special treasures!!



Local's Annual Pass
 Our Local's Annual Pass is for any West Coaster from Karamea to Haast. Adult Pass just \$19 or a Family Pass \$39 (2 adults & up to 4 kids) gives you unlimited entry to the Nocturnal House attraction for 12 months, 10% discount in our Gift Shop and Café and \$3.00 medium coffee! West Coast ID required when purchasing an annual pass.

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