



BRING ON WINTER!



The days are starting to get shorter and the nights longer, which signals the start of something very exciting out in the forest – Kiwi Breeding Time! It might seem like a strange time for these birds to start thinking about having some babies, but good things do take time! First, one has to attract a mate, so there will be some serious scent marking and call duets going on in the forest right now. Kiwi are monogamous as a rule, but reaffirming the bonds with your partner is just as serious as attracting a mate for the first time! Once the mating deed is done, the female takes around 30 days to produce an egg. The male then takes over with a gruelling 80 days of incubation, which brings the arrival of a new kiwi chick perfectly timed for the start of spring! The Department of Conservation rangers are busy running around in the kiwi sanctuaries at the moment, changing the transmitters which will allow them to learn what pairs are incubating eggs later on when the season starts. This clever technology is attached around the male kiwi's leg and has a motion sensor detecting the level of activity. Once a sudden drop in activity has persisted for several days, a new signal will be broadcast which lets the Doc guys know how old the egg is – or at least how long the male has been sitting on the nest! This technology is very accurate and provides much less disturbance than poking around in a nest all the time, making for much happier kiwi and more successful egg rescue missions.

Cold??

We have a nice range of Mi Woolies Ugg Boots and Lothlorian Possum Merino knitwear in our Gift Shop to help keep you cosy!



WELCOME TO THE TEAM ANYA!

We have a new member in our Kiwi Husbandry team, welcome Anya! (Green shirt, below image). Anya joined us towards the end of the last kiwi season and has an interesting background in equine studies and wild NZ bird monitoring. We look forward to her expertise and wish her all the best in her new role!



The fascinating antics of 'Rickman' and 'Garrick'

Our two juvenile Nocturnal House Rowi Kiwi are developing distinct personalities and each have their favourite territories in the Nocturnal house at the moment. 'Rickman' is now nearly four months old and is very protective about the enclosure area right at the entrance door, so is usually the first bird to be seen rummaging around. 'Garrick' is slightly younger at three and a half months and so is the marginally smaller bird, with a lovely little white cluster of feathers on his/her forehead. 'Garrick' is fond of the enclosure area right down the far end and will often be found camped out under a large mouku (hen and chickens) fern. These two are starting to play fight, which is very amusing to watch as they sneak up on one another in order to get a good kick in and chase each other around squeaking. At this young age we still can't tell if they are male or female, both genders will fight quite aggressively to defend territory or mates in the wild, but thankfully so far the fights we are seeing are still playful! These two curious nocturnal house Kiwi are at very interesting age to watch, so if you haven't been in to see them for a while, it is well worth popping in for a visit!



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