

NEW RESIDENTS IN THE NOCTURNAL HOUSE

Our juvenile chicks Garrick and Rickman have been a very popular attraction in our Nocturnal House the past seven months. They have been with us since they hatched, but were released to Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary on the 24th October.



We now have three Rowi chicks on display that have moved from the brooder room into the Nocturnal House. The Wild chick, 'Eustace,' along with two chicks we hatched here, 'Shasta' and 'Nui'. They moved into the Nocturnal House early this month, and all three chicks have been getting on very well together – even sleeping in the same burrow. They have been putting on lots of weight, eating around 100 grams each every day, as well as many insects and worms from their leaf litter.

'Eustace', our wild chick, spent the first few weeks inside a separate Quarantine room until test results came back as a negative for any kiwi diseases. During the first few days this chick took a while to adapt and learn that the captive kiwi diet was edible, but he/she eventually understood and became an 'eating machine' always cleaning the food bowl each night.



Certainly our largest chick to hatch so far this season has to be 'Nui'. Hatching from a large egg on the 25th September, 'Nui' weighed a whopping 374 grams. 'Nui' in Maori means "Big" and "Important", a very fitting name indeed. 'Nui' loved food, and began gaining weight very fast. We have no doubt this chick will be able to defend itself from any predators once released to the wild!

'Shasta' was our first chick this season. 'Shasta' has been the most vocal of our chicks so far. Often 'squeaking' when our Kiwi Rangers would arrive and go about their daily routine. 'Shasta's' first response when introduced to meal worms was to kill them all and leave them in pieces around the brooder! But two nights later, this chick learnt not to play and leave a meal uneaten!

We currently have one chick in our brooder room/viewing area. 'Wisp' – meaning soft and small. This kiwi chick was the smallest and lightest of our chicks so far this season, hatching at 290 grams on the 29th September. But boy does this one have an appetite. While some chicks take a wee while to realize what we feed them is edible, this one knew straight away. Always having a clean empty food bowl each morning, and one full belly! This chick is related to Shasta having the same father but a different mother! Now this is an uncommon occurrence. Usually Kiwi mate for life and will have the same partner, but this kiwi 'threesome' has bred together for a couple of season now.



We are currently incubating two Rowi eggs, and two Haast eggs in our incubation room, ranging from 60-70 days old. We shall be expecting chicks very soon from these eggs, with the oldest one due to start hatching any day now! Here's to many more!

Eggs Incubating	5
Chicks Hatched	3
Rowi in Nocturnal House	5