

## TIS THE SEASON!

Kia ora everyone! Can you believe it's nearly Christmas and almost the end of the year as well?!

We are part way through our Kiwi Captive Rearing Season! So far, we have raised two Haast tokoeka chicks rescued from the wild by Department of Conservation, and hatched two Haast tokoeka eggs. Three of these chicks have since been released after putting on adequate weight to move to an outdoor enclosure. We have also hatched and released quite a number of Rowi Kiwi. We find that Kiwi chicks can vary in behaviour, often having unique quirks! One of the Rowi chicks, named "Krug" by its sponsors, is very feisty and would kick our Ranger staff while they were handling him/her, even from a very young age. Another kiwi, "Fishies" was a very deep sleeper, but when woken up would come out to investigate and try to help with the cleaning routine! This chick has always been very vocal and inquisitive; hopefully this curious personality will help this chick survive in the wild in the future!

**EGGS:**

We are currently incubating 1 Rowi egg in our incubation room, which is 48 days old. Maybe we will be lucky and this egg will hatch right on Christmas Day!

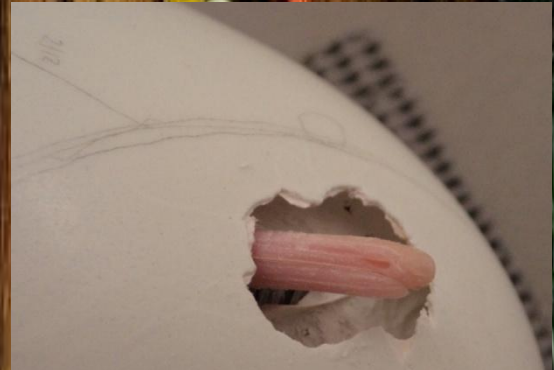
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|--------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Eggs Incubating</b>         | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Chicks Hatched</b>          | <b>9</b> |
| <b>Rowi in Nocturnal House</b> | <b>3</b> |

Yes, we are open on Christmas Day until 2pm! If you need any last minute Christmas gifts, or would like some free Wifi with your purchased coffee, come on down! The café and retail shop will be open from 8am, and our Attraction from 9am onwards.

If you are keen to do a Backstage Pass Guided Tour to see the chicks on Christmas Day, please book ahead, as spaces are limited!

Are you still looking for a special Christmas Gift? Why not Sponsor a Kiwi Chick?! Sponsorship package options can be found from our website, or at the West Coast Wildlife Centre.

Merry Christmas everyone, and a Happy New Year!



This is a Rowi chick! Check out the nostrils on the tip of its bill!



A sleeping Rowi! The bill is barely visible amongst its feathers!



A Haast tokoeka! All ready for release to an outdoor pen!