



# New Zealand Conservation Trust

## December 2010

### Kiwi Report

The season has started off with a bang and a shake! We are now into December and things are looking good. Our next release in a few weeks time will mark our 250<sup>th</sup> kiwi chick to leave our doors for the wild since 2005, a huge milestone we are very proud of! We are also looking forward to releasing our 150<sup>th</sup> Rowi chick which will be later this month. Rowi are the most endangered of all the kiwi with an estimated population of 300 which means we have effectively doubled the population from when we started.

Surviving Christchurch's big earthquake in September with 14 other eggs, "Richter" hatched a week later and made it to national and even international news. Although the eggs rolled around in their incubators we were very lucky not to have any broken. Thankfully the lip on the benches stopped the incubators falling off and our back up generator was able to keep the eggs warm until the power returned. A feel good story amongst the mess that so many families still have to face today.

Another one of our precious chicks who survived the quake we have named Howie after our vet Pauline Howard who does an amazing job for us. She always makes her time available and sadly for her it seems to coincide with her weekends or holidays. Always smiling and calm she has preformed numerous surgeries and provides us with well researched advice. We are really lucky to have such a dedicated vet helping us to save the kiwis.

As well as been thankful for the eggs surviving the quake, we are also so thankful for the hours of work and resources that went in to renovating the breeding centre over winter. The difference the changes have made are huge, making the facility function more efficiently and effectively and are much appreciated by the team!!

We are into what promises to be our biggest season yet, hoping to send back 100 chicks to the wild this summer. We couldn't do this without the support of the New Zealand Conservation Trust, the Department of Conservation, Willowbank Wildlife Reserve, our amazing volunteers, our vet Pauline, and our funders.

Another kiwi is hatching...  
Kind regards,  
The Kiwi Team,  
Corry-Ann, Frauke and Shaun

### Chairman's Report

The Kiwi breeding season is well underway again with 60 eggs and chicks under husbandry care. The season is expected to produce about the same number of new Kiwi as last year.

The Trust has been granted an operational concession and lease by DoC for an area within the Craigieburn Forest Park which is a major step forward in establishing a new and additional breeding centre for Kiwi.

The concept of developing a second dedicated Kiwi Breeding Centre has been planned for some time and it is indeed exciting that we can now proceed with the development on the ground.

The Willowbank Breeding Centre has over the winter been extensively modified and upgraded to increase operational efficiency and to enhance bio-security effectiveness.

The Breeding Centre school tours are in demand and continue to leave those who were previously unaware of the breeding process with lasting impressions. As usual the AGM of the Trust will be held in December and planning for the expansion of the Trust activities will commence at that time.

Again this year there are a number of Great Spotted Kiwi chicks under creching management in Riccarton Bush. The Craigieburn predator trapping programme is still registering high catch numbers for stoats, rats and hedgehogs.

Discussions are being held with several parties exploring the prospects of establishing new creche sites in Canterbury with a view to reducing the complexity and cost of utilising island creches.

Richard Moore.



Paparoa Ranges GSK chick

## Kiwi Breeding Centre Renovations

Having produced over 200 ONE kiwi chicks and very quickly heading towards 250, the need to increase and redesign the Kiwi Breeding centre met with the best intentioned hammer strikes of Corry Ann and myself. Aided by the Trust construction group the renovations have seen the Kiwi breeding centre take on a sharp and functional new role as we steam towards a productive and successful season.

What started out as a few small alterations, soon took on a life of its own which seemed to know no boundaries, walls were removed to make way for doors and existing doors removed to make way for walls. Extensions were built and space increased. Just like a bad episode of Grand Designs we were over budget, behind schedule with no hope of completion, thankfully for Alistair Haye we were guided to a very successful finish.

The new alterations have seen the exclusion of the main brooder room from the incubation room, a new addition providing access to the incubation room, an egg wash room, TLC room, new kitchenette and isolated wild chick container. An increase of main kitchen size improved function, coving on all floors made for easy cleaning as did resurfacing of all floors. Not only have these renovations increased the size and capacity of the building but also made the day to day function a lot more user friendly; so from our Kiwi whanau to yours thank you, thank you for the time and resources that were so kindly donated.

Ka Kite,  
The Kiwi Team



## Education report

Tuatara classroom visits are continuing with a great deal of excitement from students who meet our Travelling Tuatara.

We have also had the pleasure of sharing the Kiwi Tours with a number of local school children.

These tours are amazing for the conservationists of the future to experience and we encourage you to pass the word on to your families schools, pre-schools, workplaces and community groups.

We have visited a wide range of groups including preschools, Veteran homes, Womens Institutes, Cubs and Girl Guides.

Keep an eye on the website as updating of resources and information continues.

## Our Amazing Volunteers

This season for the first time in 5 years we advertised through Volunteering Canterbury for volunteers who could commit to helping us on the same day each week for the duration of the season. This has turned out to be a wonderful success. Through Corry-Ann's amazing interviewing skills we now have a diverse, dedicated, hardworking and cheerful group of people who make a great addition to our team.

Maintaining a sterile and clean environment in the Breeding Centre is of paramount importance, to keep away unwanted diseases that could spread like wildfire with so many birds in close proximity. This is where our helpers come in. Their tasks during the day are manifold, mainly revolving around cleaning and sterilizing food bowls, brooders, incubators and TLC units, but also including the preparation and weighing of food for the kiwi chicks. The sweeping and mopping of floors at the end of the day ensures a clean and fresh start for the next day.

With the busy lives we all lead these days; it is truly amazing that there are people who are willing to give up their precious free time to help out without being paid or expecting anything in return. Our volunteers are without exception amazing people who take on the less glamorous jobs with enthusiasm and a smile, even if the amount of brooders that need emptying, washing and sterilizing seem endless on some days!

We, the Kiwi Team, are very aware of how fortunate we are to have found Joy, Mary-Ellen, Mike, Paul, Kaye, Jennie and Karen and would like to thank them for continuing to work so hard and bringing a smile to work with them week after week.

Frauke Christ

## With thanks to our supporters of the last six months

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