

The Whakatane Kiwi Project and the Bank of New Zealand Save the Kiwi Trust Operation Nest Egg Programme

Operation Nest Egg

Kiwi eggs are removed from the wild before they hatch and incubated artificially in a safe environment. The chicks are then cared for in predator free enclosures until they are over 1kg in weight. At this point they are better able to defend themselves against the main kiwi chick killer – the stoat, and can be released back to the wild.

- 1 Operation Nest Egg started in Ohope Scenic Reserve in 2000. Since then over 40 young kiwi have been returned to the area, with a small population established on Moutohora, (Whale Island), a Department of Conservation Wildlife Management Reserve.
- 2 **July – March:** Radio tagged adult male kiwi are monitored for breeding in Ohope Scenic Reserve, Wainui and Waiotahi
- 3 **August and December:** Two egg clutches are removed from the nest once they are around 50 days old approximated two week before they are due to hatch.
- 4 The eggs are taken to Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua and incubated artificially.
- 5 **September and January:** The young chicks hatch and are cared for until they are over a kilogram in weight.
- 6 **January – June:** The birds are brought back to Whakatane, blessed by Ngati Awa and released into Ohope Scenic Reserve or onto Moutohora.
- 7 Whakatane now has an increasing kiwi population and some could be living in the bush near YOU so please:
 - Keep your dogs and cats away from designated Kiwi Zones
 - Have your dog kiwi aversion trained to protect birds outside the Kiwi Zones
 - Report any sightings or calls to DOC on 3070611



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