



Saving Our National Icon: one egg at a time!

Kiwi, our national symbol, are under serious threat and National Kiwi Hatchery's Emma Bean is integral to the species recovery programme that will help ensure they survive.

The UK-born "honorary Kiwi" has worked at New Zealand's largest kiwi hatchery for over 13 years and in that time she has seen the 500th, 1000th, 1500th and most recently the 2000th chicks hatch.

The National Kiwi Hatchery manager, or tumu kaitiaki kiwi, will speak to Catalyst Trust on Tuesday, September 15 about its *Operation Nest Egg* kiwi conservation work and the importance of species recovery programmes in retaining New Zealand's biodiversity.

She will explain how to successfully hatch kiwi chicks and what unfeathered Kiwis can do to help ensure kiwi species' survival.

The National Kiwi Hatchery is hosted At Rainbow's Springs' Nature Park in Rotorua and hatches more than 120 chicks each year, some 75% of all kiwi hatched in purpose-built hatching facilities nationwide.



Fittingly, the talk will be held at Queenstown's own Kiwi Birdlife Park, which has worked extensively with Emma and her team for many years. "Conservation is all about collaboration," says park manager Paul Kavanagh. Koha collected at the door will go to Kiwi Birdlife Park's 'breed for release' programme for kiwi, one of 20 native species they're working with.

Tuesday, September 15, 5.30 to 7 PM, Kiwi Birdlife Park (upper Brecon Street). Doors open 5.15 PM. Registration on Catalyst Trust's [Eventbrite page](#) is required as seats are limited and for contact tracing purposes. Any necessary updates will be notified to registrants and posted on our [Facebook page](#). Please observe level II requirements, particularly 1 m distancing. The bar will be open.

[Further info for website event listing](#)

The **National Kiwi Hatchery** is New Zealand's largest kiwi hatchery, and has successfully hatched 2048 kiwi chicks since 1995, with an average hatch success rate of over 95%. Rainbow Springs also receives and rehabilitates sick and injured wild kiwi from around the North Island. <https://www.nationalkiwihatchery.org.nz/>

Emma has a BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences from The University of Birmingham, UK, and a postgraduate diploma in Conservation Biology (merit) from Massey University. However, most of Emma's knowledge has been gained on the job, using transferable skills from her previous microbiology lab background and other conservation projects she has participated in around the world (from elephants in Chang Mai to gibbons on Phuket). Emma is also the Kiwi Husbandry Advisor for ZAA (Zoo Aquarium Association), offering advice to other captive facilities, and sits on the DOC Kiwi Best Practice Committee.

Queenstown's **Kiwi Birdlife Park** has been dedicated to the conservation of our native taonga since 1986. They have planted more than 15,000 native trees in the sanctuary and are now involved in species recovery programmes for over 20 native species, including 'breed for release' programmes for North Island brown kiwi, South Island kākā, pāteke, whio and Grand and Otago skink. They have previously worked with the Haast Tokoeka kiwi and the Rowi (both South Island species). Their last releases were two males, Waikaha and Nati, into Te Pua-a-Tane park in the Whirinaki conservation area.

Kiwi Birdlife Park was the first institute in NZ to be accredited with providing positive animal welfare standards as part of the Zoo and Aquarium Association's Accreditation 2020 programme and they are also the only native wildlife rehabilitator in our district. All of their work is funded by visitors. They are currently fundraising for their recently built state-of-the-art kiwi exhibit and non-display breeding area.