



Treetop Tales

August-September 2021

Welcome to Treetop Tales, a roundup of news, advice, events and the latest happenings at BirdCare Aotearoa.

Lockdown at BirdCare

We hope everyone stayed safe during the latest lockdown!

While our reception setup is a little different, we're still here looking after our patients. We've sent most of our volunteers home and are operating on a reduced team. We've also reduced our opening hours to 10-11am and 2-3pm. Thanks to everyone who has continued to bring us birds in need during this difficult time. We've admitted 552 patients during this lockdown so far.



On the move

If you have been following us for a while, you'll remember that this little building has served many purposes: office space, tea room, and most recently; triage clinic for new admissions.

As part of a long-term development plan for the outdoor section of our facility, the awesome team at Hiab Transport Ltd helped us to relocate triage. We were thrilled to finally get this done after waiting patiently throughout level 4. We hope you'll notice the extra parking space during your next visit!

Thank you so much Hiab Transport Ltd for the time, effort, and patience!



Hiab Transport Ltd

You are invited to our baby shower!

Stay tuned for our first ever live baby shower on October 24th!

We will show you around our newly revamped nurseries and introduce you to some of our youngest patients. You will have the opportunity to learn about our centre and how you can support us to care for our precious feathered patients.

Follow us on social media to stay updated!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Preparing for baby season

The amazing Danielle has been hard at work renovating our nurseries, ready for the upcoming baby season. New features include: curtains, more benches, corkboards, whiteboards, new cage covers, and several new incubators.

Baby bird season is our busiest and most expensive season! Our baby wishlist includes:

- Fresh or freshly hard boiled eggs (we go through up to 30 a day feeding our baby songbirds!)
- Live and dry mealworms (everyone's favourite food!)
- Live, spray free flies for our native insectivores
- Applesauce (or other fruit sauce made from 100% pureed fruit, cooked if needed) to prepare tui and silvereye food
- Oranges for our tui and silvereye
- Papaya/pawpaw (baby silvereye absolutely love papaya – it encourages them to self feed and put on weight)
- Golden kiwifruit (baby tui love these)
- Delicates wash bags (to safely contain baby birds on arrival)
- Spray mop with mop pads
- Heavy duty blenders
- Dishwashing liquid
- Unscented laundry powder

We have already started receiving baby birds and we have an adorable plover couple nesting in the middle of our lawn. We're expecting patient numbers to start increasing any minute now!



Volunteer spotlight: Kathy

We would like to acknowledge the incredible work of Kathy, Ryan, Kevin and the rest of the pest control team. (We've missed you during lockdown!)

We are lucky to back on to a huge section of native bush, which is perfect for soft releasing young birds. (We also have some kauri trees with no signs of kauri dieback disease!) Unfortunately, we were noticing an increasing amount of wild ginger, wild asparagus, and banana passionfruit.

Kathy and co have spent many hours removing these pest species and allowing the natives to breathe. Kathy also organised two working bees with Auckland University alumni, as shown below. The bush is already looking so much better!

[Register your interest as a volunteer](#)



Frontline Emergency Training

Join our general manager Lynn Miller for an online workshop on rescuing wild

birds. We will cover step-by-step processes for evaluating the situation, capture, handling, transport, and first aid for sick, injured or abandoned/orphaned wild birds.

This event was postponed due to lockdown, so we now plan to hold the event online. We would love to see you there. All online attendees will also be invited to visit the centre for morning or afternoon tea once we are back in Level 1.

[Click here to buy tickets](#)

Patient spotlight: broken beak kererū

This kererū arrived with a fractured beak and jaw. Vet Dani inserted an esophageal tube, which allowed us to feed direct to the crop without touching the beak or jaw. The beak was secured in place, and the kererū received antibiotics, pain relief, and anti-inflammatories. After 5 days, the fracture had healed enough for the tube to be removed. The next morning, we discovered a happy kererū and an empty food bowl!

This kererū is now spending some time in an aviary as she decided to moult multiple flight feathers at once. She is doing very well, and will be released as soon as her feathers grow out.



Donations

We've received some incredibly generous donations since the last update. We are especially thrilled with not one, but two spa pools! One has functioning jets and a filter system, and the other needs a little work. Our patients are absolutely loving the spa bath with jets (this is only a temporary setup while our seabird clinic is under renovation). Pictured below is a common diving petrel who has since been released.



Did you spring clean the garage during lockdown?

We are currently on the lookout for:

- Outdoor paint in earthy tones (small quantities are fine!) to renovate our aviaries
- Extra microwaves for defrosting frozen bird food
- Sand, pebbles, scoria, or river stones
- A waterblaster
- Functional blenders or nutribullets
- Mealworm sieves (with varied sizes of mesh)
- Functional and accurate scales
- Linoleum offcuts
- 'Astroturf' fake grass
- Any unwanted spa pools
- Strawberry plants (we would love to set up movable planters in the aviaries) and passionfruit plants (to plant around our duckweed tanks)

Any of these items will be very gratefully received by our staff and patients! Donations can be dropped to our centre at 74 Avonleigh Road, Green Bay. During lockdown, the gates are open 10-11am and 2-3pm; after lockdown we will be open 8am-4pm daily.

If you have these items but are not able to bring them out, please contact support@birdcareaotearoa.org.nz and we will see if we have any volunteers in your area!

Current birds in care

100

at BirdCare Aotearoa, Green Bay, Auckland

Winter is our quiet season, but as summer gets closer, our numbers are starting to rise again! Pictured below is our first baby kererū of the season.



206

Birds released
in August and September

Native: 1 kāhu (swamp harrier), 1 kererū, 1 kōtare (kingfisher), 1 kuaka (common diving petrel), 1 masked lapwing/spur-winged plover, 1 ōi (grey faced petrel), 1 pīwakawaka (fantail), 1 ruru (morepork), 1 tauhou (silveryeye), 1 tui

Non-Native: 1 barbary dove, 1 blackbird, 1 domestic duck, 1 goldfinch, 170 mallards, 13 rock pigeons, 4 sparrows, 1 song thrush

[Click here to watch the release of a hawk](#)

Thank you!

Thank you so much for your ongoing support, and for reading our latest

updates!

Our wonderful partners

