

Kiwi Nesting Box Construction

Thank you for taking an interest in how to construct kiwi nesting boxes for the Otorohanga Kiwi House and Native Bird Park.

There are normally around 17 adult kiwi at any one time at the Otorohanga Kiwi House. Each kiwi requires at least two artificial nesting boxes/burrows in their enclosure so they can keep warm and dry, and can withdraw from light and visitors when they need to. The following two nesting box designs eliminate light from the kiwi's nesting area through use of either internal partitions (Design A) or a long tunnel entrance (Design B). The boxes are made out of wood (often 10mm H3 treated plywood) and have a hinged lid to enable keepers to check kiwi easily. The roosting box area does not have a wooden floor as the box gets dug into the soil when installed in an enclosure. There must be no sharp edges or screws/nails pushing through that kiwi could injure themselves on.

To keep kiwi healthy, we need to replace each nesting box after two or three years because the wood can harbor harmful *Aspergillus* spores as it begins to rot. This means we need a large number of kiwi nesting boxes each year. We also need volunteers who are prepared to construct these nesting boxes for our kiwi and or sponsorship to pay for the materials used to make these boxes.

If you can help, please contact us by email: manager@kiwihouse.org.nz, phone us on 07 8737391, or simply pop in and have a chat.

The information and images in this document has been sourced from the "Brown Kiwi (Apteryx Mantelli) Husbandry Manual," Version 2, written by Ian Fraser and Tracy Johnson.



Figure 5. Plywood nest/roost box at Auckland Zoo. (photo: M. Whybrow)

Plywood Kiwi Nest Box Design A

There have been some recent improvements made to this design by a volunteer at Rainbow Springs Kiwi Encounter (Brian):

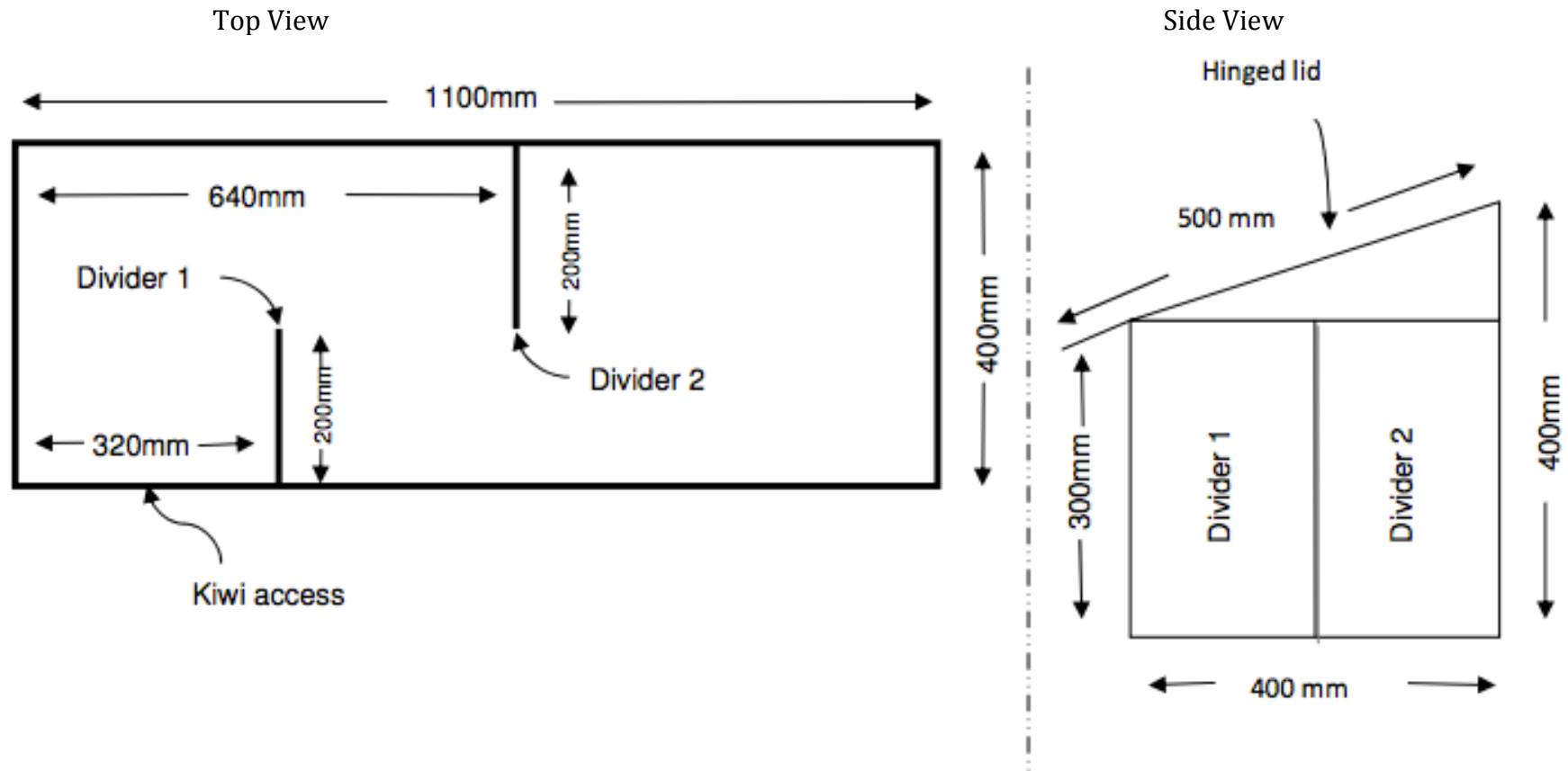
- The addition of an extra lid inside the 3rd compartment. This needs to have a handle and the hinges should be situated on Divider 2.
- The main hinged lid has a lip on it to help provide weight to hold the lid down and exclude any light that could get between the lid and the main box.
- There are 4 small wooden handles on the long edges of the box to help the boxes to be moved easily.



2 photos provided by Rainbow Springs showing Brian's improved Kiwi nest box design.

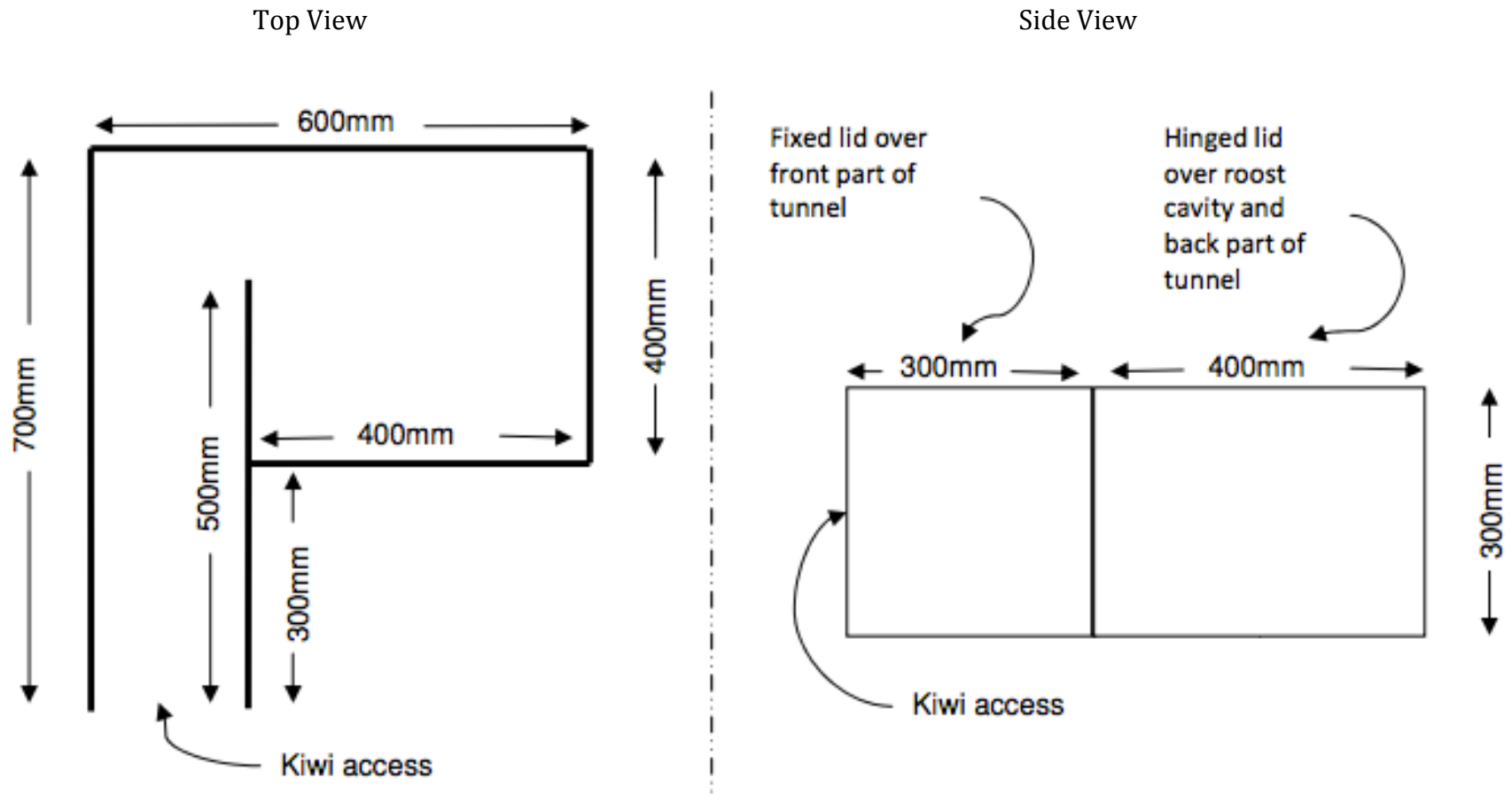
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Plywood Kiwi Nest Box Design A continued:



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Plywood Kiwi Nest Box Design B



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