



HUNTER SENDS KIWI INTO WILD

A few kisses and a cuddle from newly-appointed kiwi patron Rachel Hunter, and this juvenile kiwi chick was on its way into the Hawke's Bay wilderness. The chick was the 100th to be freed by the Forest Life Force Restoration Trust, that is marking its sixth season using BNZ Operation Nest Egg, which rescues kiwi eggs from the wild and incubates them. Once the chicks hatch, the trust looks after them until they're large enough to

defend themselves. The chick, a 1kg North Island brown kiwi named Takamoana, after an influential local Maori chief, was released into thick bush in the Maungataniwha Native Forest in inland Hawke's Bay on Saturday. Hunter has been named as the trust's patron. Fifty of the trust's 100 kiwi chicks have been released into Maungataniwha Native Forest, where the eggs came from, and 50 have been moved to the

Cape Kidnappers and Ocean Beach Preserve. Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson praised backer Simon Hall as one of the driving forces behind the trust. "I am very impressed by what Simon and his team have achieved. It is important these initiatives are encouraged. Not only are the trust restoring kiwi, they are working to control pests and bring back other threatened plants and animals at sites as far as Fiordland."



Photo: JOHN COMPLAND/FOREST LIFE FORCE RESTORATION TRUST