

# Protect our Kapiti Island treasures Tiakina tō tātou taonga o Kāpiti

Kapiti Island is a Nature Reserve – a predator-free sanctuary for rare plants and animals. Help us protect this unique paradise.

Stop

Check

Go



Male hihi singing.  
Photo: Leon Berard

## BEFORE LEAVING THE MAINLAND

### Check your gear so your tourism provider can clear you for travel:

- Check clothing, bags and equipment for pest animals, insects, soil and seeds. Pay attention to Velcro and pockets.
- Clean footwear to remove soil, seeds and diseases.
- Keep all food in sealed containers. Open bags of food are not allowed on the island.

#### Check bags



#### Clean footwear



## A hitchhiker's guide to pests



**Rats and mice** can squeeze through 7 mm gaps. Cats can hide mice in owners' bags! Kapiti Island has been rat free since 1996 – one of the reasons the birds are thriving.



Insects like **Argentine ants** can attack and kill birds and young chicks in the nest. They have not yet been detected on Kapiti Island.



**Weeds** can choke forests and kill trees. They are spread by seeds and spores that stick to clothing and hide in soil.



The **plague skink** (also known as **rainbow skink**) is not yet on Kapiti Island – it would devastate native skinks. Look out for their small (10 mm), round white eggs.

## Enjoy Kapiti Island. Help us protect it!

- › Clean and check your gear before leaving the mainland.
- › Do not feed the wildlife.
- › Do not approach animals any closer than 10 m. The animal may come to you, but do not touch or disturb it.
- › All wildlife has right of way.
- › Keep to formed tracks and mowed areas at all times.
- › Pack in/pack out – take all rubbish back to the mainland, including fruit pips, cores and stones.
- › Do not throw rubbish into composting toilets.
- › Use the toilets provided – do not go in the bush.
- › Do not take anything from the island.
- › No fires on the island – including portable cooking stoves.
- › No smoking, including e-cigarettes.

### IF YOU FIND A PEST:

#### On the mainland before leaving

Get rid of the pest, clean and check your gear again.

#### On the boat

Tell your crew immediately.

#### On the island

Tell your tour guide or island ranger immediately.

### OR CALL:

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards  
or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111



Department of  
Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government