

# Boaties: Please help keep Ahuahu Great Mercury Island Pest Free

Ahuahu – Great Mercury Island is a pest-free island. It is home to a wide range of endangered endemic species including tīeke (saddleback) and Mercury Island tusked wētā. It is crucial for the protection of these and other species that pests like rats, mice and invasive ants are not reintroduced to the island.

When planning your trip to Ahuahu – Great Mercury Island, please ensure your vessel and gear is pest free. It is surprisingly easy for hitch-hiking animals to sneak aboard without realising. Mice will squeeze through a gap the width of a pencil, plague skinks can fit into smaller spaces. Preventing these pests arriving is the best way to protect the island.

**Anchor offshore, do not land even with Sealegs. If in doubt, further out! If you suspect rodent or pest sign on your boat please stay away. Some rats can swim up to 2km and mice are known to swim up to 800m.**

**Investing in a bait station and traps for your boat will help you out and protect the Island**

**CLEAN, PACK, and SECURE** your gear from pests before and during travel.

if you have any queries, please contact Great Mercury Island Biosecurity Ranger

[conservation@greatmercuryisland.nz](mailto:conservation@greatmercuryisland.nz) Ph: 07 280 0518



Rainbow/plague skinks



Soil and seeds



Rats and mice



Argentine ants

Clean footwear and gear. Remove soil and seeds



Use bags that are fully sealable



Make sure pests can't get into food



**NO PESTS ON ME**



This island is pest free: are you?