

## Motuihe Island School visit check list

### Preparation for your visit to Motuihe Island

We are delighted that you are planning to visit our island paradise. Here are a few guidelines and pointers to help you prepare for the big day.

#### **Biosecurity**

As Motuihe is an island sanctuary this is a great opportunity for learning about biosecurity.

New Zealand is a land of birds, reptiles and insects that has been isolated from the rest of the world for a very long time. For this reason, our native animals and plants have not adapted to respond appropriately to predators introduced from other countries such as rats, cats and possums. Many of our birds are flightless which makes them extra vulnerable. They are also often slow breeding – once their numbers are reduced by predators they take a long time to recover.

It's not just our animals that are at risk. Plant pests often grow a lot faster than our native trees and can damage them by blocking out the sunlight they need or by competing for space. Vines like moth plant can also grow up and around native species, damaging them and preventing growth.

Before visiting make sure your students know it is important not to bring any pest animals, seeds or dirt to the island.

#### **All visitors must have:**

- Clean shoes, clothes and bags which they have checked for any dirt or seeds.
- Lunch packed in a lunchbox (not a plastic bag – this is because it's easy for unwanted critters to gnaw through or sneak into bags to get to food and hitch a ride).

#### **Food, water and rubbish**

There is nowhere to buy food on the island and the tap water is untreated bore water. We also ask you to take all rubbish off the island with you when you leave.

#### **Check that:**

- ✓ All students have a good lunch (packed in a lunch box)
- ✓ Everyone has a large bottle of water
- ✓ Hats
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ A raincoat
- ✓ Sturdy walking shoes – jandals or similar are not suitable for walking on the island
- ✓ Everyone is responsible for their own rubbish, or you provide rubbish bags to take off the island.