



Stick Insect, Bryce McQuillan

STICK INSECT

(PHASMATODEA)

Get out into your backyard and look for a stick insect! Please don't touch or try to catch them, they have a job to do!

- Stick insects only eat plant material. They are especially fond of leaves of the mānuka and pōhutukawa trees, but will also eat rose leaves.
- They have to hide from birds, lizards and larger bugs, who prey on them.

Tips on observing them:

- You will have to look carefully to find a stick insect in your backyard. They are masters of disguise and look like green or brown sticks. They also sway slightly to give the impression of a tree in the breeze. They use this camouflage to avoid being found and eaten by predators.
- They are usually found towards the upper layers of a tree, amongst the leaves.
- If they are disturbed, they fall to the ground and play dead.