

Edition #17

Autumn /Winter 2025

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

FRIENDS OF MATAI BAY HUT



Become part of the journey and
help to manage the Matai Bay Hut
in its unique location for
future generations to enjoy.

In the first instance please contact:

Email: mataibayhut@gmail.com



BOOK TODAY

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Matai Bay Hut Trust Chair's Report

Chair's Report – Greg Durkin

Financial year of 1 November 2023 – 31 March 2025

Kia ora koutou

Puraho māku, kei ngaure o mahi.

To catch fish you must place your basket in the water. No work, no pay.

The meaning of this whakatauki is clear – effort brings reward. This is particularly true with respect to the Matai Bay Hut Trust. The period since the last AGM has been successful for the Trust with effective operation of the Hut on behalf of the Department of Conservation (DoC) and the Tennyson Inlet community.

The 2023-2025 period saw a steady increase in Hut use. The booking process for the Hut has continued to respond quickly and effectively to requests. My thanks to the team for keeping this process simple and easy to follow. Having a friendly and informative person at the end of every phone call or email makes a real difference to the quality of experience of Hut users.

The purposes of the Matai Bay Hut Trust are stated in the Trust Deed and our management agreement with DoC, which are.

- i. To manage and maintain the DOC-owned hut in Matai (Godsiff) Bay, known as the 'Matai Bay Hut' under a management agreement with DoC.
- ii. To provide, through management of the Hut, a positive natural backcountry life experience for visitors and all New Zealanders in order to gain wider community participation. This, in turn, leads to the preservation of the Hut for future generations in perpetuity.
- iii. The Trustees will administer the Trust for the benefit of its supporters, and the general public in accordance with its charitable purposes.

I can confirm that the Matai Bay Hut Trust ably exceeded the purposes stated above. In doing so, they operated the Hut in a fiscally responsible manner. The Trust has employed funds generated from fund-raising, donations, and Hut fees to ensure the purposes of the Hut are met, bookings are managed well, maintenance of the resource is undertaken, and compliance conditions are met.

Matai Bay Hut Trust Chair's Report cont

The core administration of the Hut falls on the Trust Secretary, Booking Coordinator, and Treasurer. My sincere thanks to Linda Booth for her dedication to the former two positions and Tim Durkin-Wright for his studious attention to our finances.

My thanks to the many people involved in checking and maintaining the Hut, which is ably coordinated by Beryl Archer, with support from Sarah Archer to corral people for the annual working bee, and Mark Secker's oversight of health and safety.

The annual Matai Bay Hut Calendar is an important funding tool. Managing this task takes a lot of time and effort. Thank you, Beryl and team, for bringing this wonderful publication to life. Also, thanks to the many purchasers who took home an inspiring set of images of paradise.

The Matai Bay Hut is a unique feature of Marlborough Sounds that the Department of Conservation (DOC) values highly. The common goal of preserving and operating the Hut, has resulted in Tennyson Inlet communities forging a great working relationship with the local DoC team that delivers value for visitors and locals alike. On behalf of the Trust, I extend my thanks to the team at DoC for supporting this example of an effective public-private partnership in the conservation estate. As we look forward to another year, I am pleased to advise the Matai Bay Hut Trust is in a strong position to manage the resource going forward. The Trust remains focused on providing a resource that is valued by users and the community. In closing, I commend the Trustees and supporters for their sustained efforts and dedication to Matai Bay Hut.

This report is for the 17-month period from November 2023 to March 2025. This extended time frame arose from the Trust changing its financial end-of-year date from 31 October to 31 March.

Naku noa
Greg Durkin
Chair

NEW TRUSTEES WANTED

Please Apply

The Matai Bay Hut Trust has vacant positions for trustees, which you are welcome to apply for.

By way of guidance about being a trustee, applicants ought to:

- be of good character, honest, and trustworthy;
- have an association with Tennyson Inlet;
- support the aims of the Trust (management of the Hut on behalf of DoC for public good);
- be willing and able to undertake duties associated with Trust operations from time to time; and
- attend and participate in Trust meetings as required (approximately four per annum).

Please note the Matai Bay Hut Trust is a charitable body. Trustee roles are voluntary.

If you are interested in being considered for a trustee position, please email the Secretary at MBHTSecretary@gmail.com providing information about yourself and suitability to be a trustee.

matai hut

Health and Safety report

Matai Bay Hut Trust
Health and Safety Report

Areas of concern that have been raised / addressed or highlighted are as follows:

- Please take care around the pail of rat baits under the hut and keep children away from that area.
- A while back some empty bottles, broken glass and wire netting were found in the scrub to the north east of the hut, so children should be encouraged to wear footwear when exploring. If visitors arriving by larger boats are able to take out any such debris, that would obviously be helpful and appreciated.
- As always, take care when using candles and use the provided holders.
- It is great that we can now use cellphones from the hut, as this greatly enhances communications in emergency situations. But please consider other Hut users who may wish to escape the temptation to scroll! and just enjoy the tranquility of the Hut

Mark Seckar - Health and Safety

calendar 2025

We still have some calendars left,
if you wish to purchase contact maitaibayhut@gmail.com

2026
calendar

Can you help us?

Every year we produce a
fundraising calendar.

The month photos are from the images
submitted to us by Hut users.

If you take a **"WOW"** photo and think it is
suitable for a month in the 2026 calendar we
would be delighted to receive it.

You never know it may even be selected
for the cover shot!

Send to us

ASAP



Your paragraph text
MATAIBAYHUT@GMAIL.COM



did you know?

Trees around the Hut

To celebrate “our first year on” in 2014, we organized a fun day, and to mark the occasion a Matai Tree was planted at the hut. It is situated on the right hand side of the ramp going down to the wood box.

“ For such a noble old tree it is surprising to learn that it begins life as a tangled shrub of wiry leaves and twigs. These young plants look so different from the forest giants that the Matai tree becomes that the first botanist to visit New Zealand assumed they were a different species. It is only when the Matai gains a few metres in height that a trunk begins to form and the tangle of little branches dies away. It is not entirely clear why the Matai tree has this unusual growth form, which is not seen in its close relative Miro, but it does fit a common pattern in the New Zealand Flora.

There is a much higher proportion of divaricating shrubs - those with interlaced branches - in New Zealand than anywhere else in the world ,and the same growth pattern has evolved multiple times in unrelated plants.

One theory for the abundance of this growth form is that the plants create warmer temperatures inside their tangled mass of branches, allowing them to inhabit cooler, more exposed sites. Another is that the structure is a relic from a time when moa were the dominant herbivore in New Zealand. The tangled mass of leaves may have served as a defence against moa, protecting vulnerable leaves from prying beaks .

Reference : The Meaning of trees by Robert Vennell

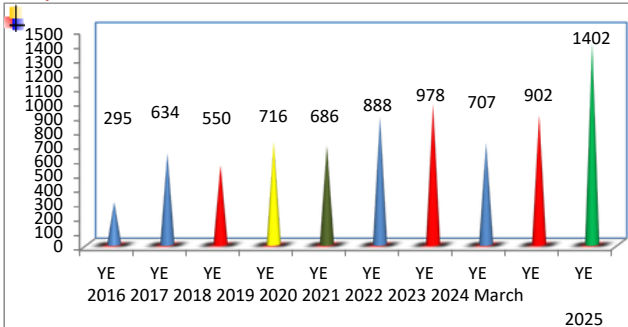
When you wander through the bush at Matai Hut on your next stay, tread gently as new generations are emerging.

There doesn't appear to be any giants left in the immediate vicinity of the Hut; sadly, they were probably milled.

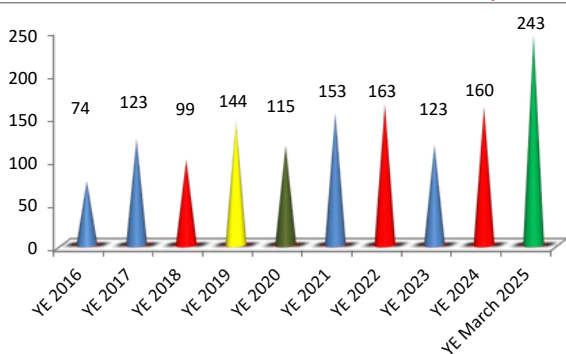
booking trends

HUT BOOKING TRENDS 2016 – 2024/25

Graph 1



Graph 2



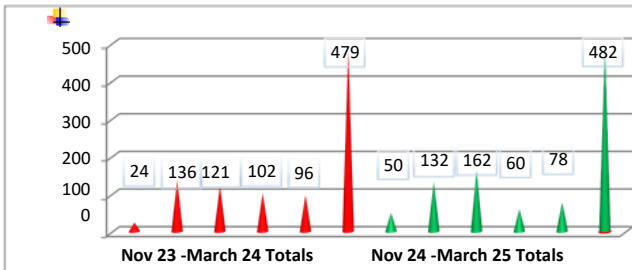
Number of Bed Nights

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	YE March 2025
295	634	550	716	686	888	978	707	902	1403

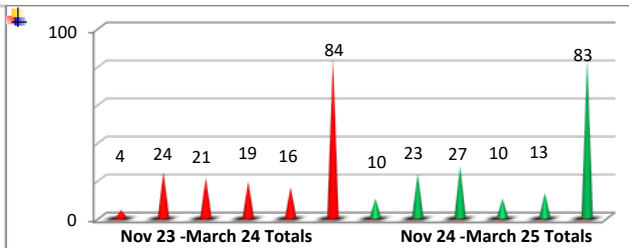
Number of Nights booked

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	YE March 2025
74	123	99	144	115	153	163	123	160	243

Graph 3



Graph 4



Number of Bed Nights

Nov 23- March 24	Nov 24 - March 25
479	482

Number of Nights booked

Nov 23- March 24	Nov 24- March 25
84	83

share

Your Hut Memory

Greetings everyone! As Hut Checkers and fans of Matai Hut, here's a wee snippet of some of the good times we have had over there.

We love the Matai Hut for its simplicity, beauty, and peacefulness. Charles and I try and stay at least twice during the year, whether it is winter or summer, we still love it. We always try and incorporate it with our Hut Check Roster. We love the walk about and check the baits and come out at the beach. Watching the birds especially the Tui's on the flax bush is magical.

The evening is truly amazing. At wintertime we take our own firewood, light the fire, and play scrabble or monopoly and listen to our music. During the day we sit quietly and read our books, take a stroll on the beach, kayaks, a bit of fishing and just relaxed.

Sharing a bottle of Pinot Noir at the edge of the low tides watching the sun set is truly amazing. Although we own a Bach at Penzance Bay, leaving the Hut the next day is always sad, as we never want to leave this peaceful Paradise.

You must try out this amazing Hut. It is an experience of a lifetime 😊

Cheers, Suzy and Charles Evans



reminder

Pack it in Pack it out

- When you plan to head out into nature, be ready to carry your litter with you.
- There are no rubbish bins in the Bay or at the Hut. If you see litter, PLEASE pick it up, even if it's not yours and take it out with you.
- Food scraps are litter. Tossing orange peels and apple cores into the bush might seem harmless, but it isn't.
- Food scraps can take years to break down and they feed predators like rats, stoats and mice.
- Protect New Zealand's wildlife by packing away all litter, including food scraps.

TAKE IT in, PLEASE take it out

hut checkers

are you interested?

We are looking for people to add to our list of Hut Checkers.

As a Hut Checker you are required to visit the Hut and check on facilities, report back if there is any repairs required, assist with any repairs, check on cleanliness and the overall Hut.

We have a group of Hut Checkers so you would be required to visit the Hut and complete the Checkers List once or twice in a year.

If this sounds like something you would be keen to be apart of please contact Beryl Archer on 0274321165 or email at berylarcher@xtra.co.nz

MATAI HUT - HOW TO BOOK

For fees and bookings please contact us by email at

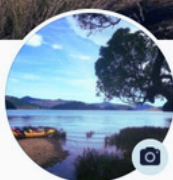
mataibayhut@gmail.com

\$10.00 per adult per night \$5.00 per child per night
Sole Occupancy \$60.00 per night

Newsletter Editor: Kim.Rogers308@gmail.com

SHARE

Your Next Hut Adventure



Matai Bay Hut

501 likes • 517 followers



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