

Edition #16

December 2024

»» 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:



BOOK TODAY

Email: mataibayhut@gmail.com

Linda Booth: 027 436 9485

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Matai Bay Hut Trust Chair's Report

December 2024

Nga mihi e koutou

It is official, summer has arrived. At the time of writing this update, Santa was 18 big-sleeps away. So, get busy and get organised!

Bookings for the Matai Bay Hut are flowing in, with many returning to this piece of paradise. Plus, we have multiple first-time visitors. Welcome to you all, and I trust you will have an awesome time in Matai Bay this summer. If you have not made a booking for the Hut yet, please contact us at mataibayhut@gmail.com or call the contact listed later in the newsletter.

From those in the know, fishing is looking great with warmer water. Reports of gurnard, snapper and cod in Tennyson Inlet are certainly increasing. Along with fishing and swimming, there are plenty of interesting walks and sights to see.

Our team of volunteers (trustees and awesome helpers) have been toiling away to make sure the Matai Bay Hut is in tip-top condition to welcome visitors. A recent working bee at the Hut by Trustees and other volunteers made sure everything is ready for summer.

My thanks to those people who gave up their time to undertake this valuable work,

If you have already got one (or more), the 2025 Matai Bay Hut Calendar is now available, with a great collection of photos (taken by locals and visitors) of Tennyson Inlet and the wider Sounds.



Matai Bay Hut Trust Chair's Report cont

December 2024

Personally, I hang one in the kitchen at home right by the kettle, which enables me to gaze at the awesome landscape every time I make a cup of tea. The annual calendar is a large undertaking by the Trust and is our major fund-raising activity. A huge vote of thanks to all of those involved in preparation, production and sales. All profits from calendar sales go to supporting the Matai Bay Hut.

If you have not got your hands on one of these beauties yet, then follow the instructions below to secure a few copies (sharing is caring).

Happy reading folks – until next time, ma te wa kotou katoa.

Greg Durkin

*Happy
New Year
2025*

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:

- New signs have been placed reminding people that there is a pack in/pack out policy in respect of rubbish and leftover food. While it may seem generous to leave unused items for future visitors, these often end up having to be removed by the trust and can encourage rodents.
- 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

Purchase today.....



\$15.00 ea

FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

Each year the Matai Bay Hut Trust assembles a Fund-Raising Calendar of exciting scenes from within the Marlborough Sounds.

The calendars are available now. They make an excellent gift for friends and family or to send overseas.

These are available from any Trust Member or

★ Linda Booth Ph 027 436 9485
doug.linda2@gmail.com
or
mataibayhut@gmail.com

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

2025 MATAI BAY HUT

CALENDAR



MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

NEW ZEALAND

**THANK YOU
FOR ASSISTING US TO
MAINTAIN THE HUT
FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS TO
ENJOY**

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 matai becomes that the first botanist to visit New Zealand assumed they were different species. It is only when 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 Matai 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 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.

Annual Spring Clean

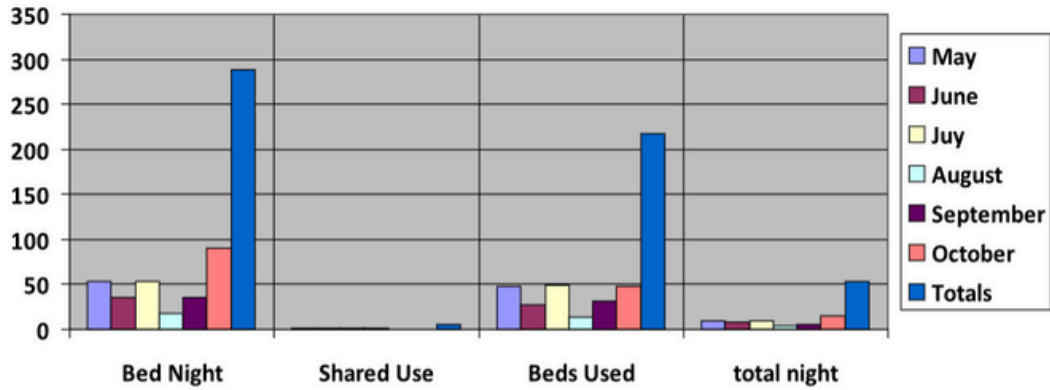


it is thanks to these
Working Bees
that our Hut gets
5 star reviews

Trust members and
volunteers working
hard on a beautiful
November day
getting the Hut
ready for the
summer season.

Great work team
- thank you from
all our future hut
users

booking trends

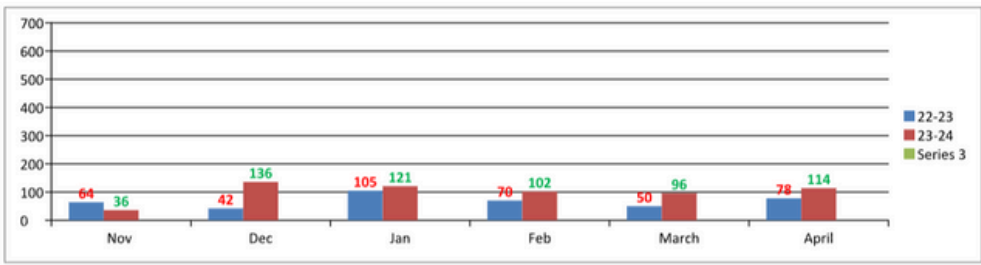


Booking Data from May 2024 – October 2024

Total Bed Nights Sole Use over the period = 288
 Shared Use Nights over the period = 5
 Beds Used over the period = 218
 Number of Nights Booked over the period = 53
 Sole Use Average = 5.43 per night. Beds Used = 53 = 4.11

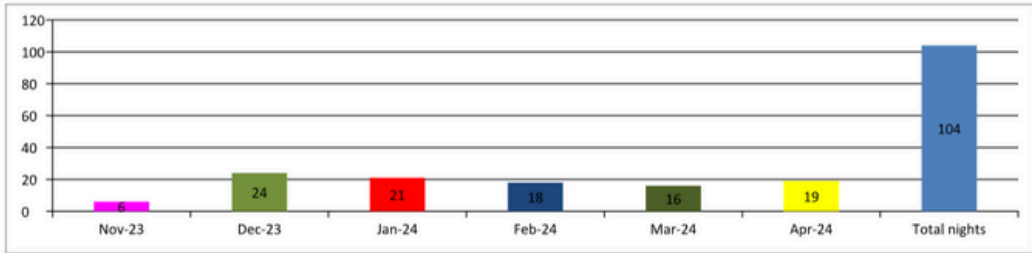
Hut Booking Trends Bed Nights

November 22 -April 23
 November 23-April 24



Hut Booking Trends

Nights Booked November 23-April 24



In this 6 months there appears to be a slight improvement in the number of bed nights, which in turn increases the percentage of bed nights. $605 / 104 = 5.81$ beds per night.

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

share

Your Hut Memory

A favorite saying of mine is “If we don't do stupid things now while we are young how are going to laugh about it in the future”

So for some the thought of staying at a hut off grid that you can only get to by boat, that has no power or running water is crazy and yet for others it's the start of creating memories that are talked about for years to come.

This thought crossed my mind the the other day, while I was at a function chatting to someone who has stayed at the Hutsome 15 years or more ago and he was telling me this story that he said to this day his family still laugh at the memory of and how magical the Hut is.

Bearing this in mind, if anyone would like to share a memory or photo of their stay we would enjoy including it in the next newsletter .

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

Booking enquiries you can also contact : Linda Booth: 027 436 9485

Newsletter Editor: Kim.Rogers308@gmail.com

SHARE

Your Next Hut Adventure



Matai Bay Hut

501 likes • 517 followers

