



SUPPORTERS' NEWSLETTER



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

Perfect Seclusion



Sometimes, the only way to truly get away from it all is to go someplace only accessible via boat. Spend a night at Matai and listen as the World's problems fade away with the lapping ocean

Hut Fees

Adult: \$6.00 per night per person.

Youth/child: \$3.00 per night per person.

Exclusive Occupancy: \$36.00 per night.

In the first instance please contact:

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Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas



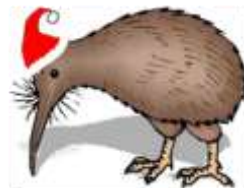
The members of the
Matai Bay Hut Trust would like to wish
all Supporters a Safe and Happy Christmas.

Greg, Jeremy, Sharon, Luke, Ellie, Jason, Fiona, Beryl Tim,
Jane & Linda

May the good times and treasures of the present
become the golden memories of tomorrow.

Meri Kirihimete

Meri Kirihimete



Matai Bay through the Season

Spring 2018

Wandering through the bush or walking on the beach one can't help but admire the beauty and abundance of spring flowers in Matai Bay this year which is mainly due to it being a mast year. A masting happens when there is an increase in average temperature between the last two summers. Native plants from Beech and Rimu through to Cabbage trees and Tussocks have a frenzy of very heavy flowering and seeding, unfortunately triggering a plague of rats and mice, quickly followed by a plague of stoats that feast on those rodents and then turn on the native birds.

Looking along the creek banks the gorgeous tiny rose coloured flowers of the **Makomako** (Wineberry) may be seen (unfortunately at threat from possums) and the **Kamaha** flowers on their erect white lower spikes are so spectacular although not quite eclipsing the beauty of the **Clematis** which is found cascading down into the creek not far from the hut. The **Ngaio** trees located along the foreshore in front of the hut are just forming a proliferation of tiny white flowers with pink centres. Also close to the foreshore the **Manuka** trees are adorned in their white star-shaped flowers, which some say heralds the arrival of the snapper. Early spring saw the panicles of the scented white, green and pink centred flowers of the climber '**Bush Lawyer**'. Don't be lured by the beautiful flowers and scent as it has nasty hooks which can tear skin and clothing.

Kawakawa flowers are in their first stage of development showing grey and green flower spikes which will turn yellow in the summer then produce fruit in the autumn providing berries for the Tui.



Whitebait were seen in small numbers in the creek, with one shoal seen stranded in a land-locked pool all day for the tide to set them free.

On the beach an empty **Elephant Fish egg** was seen, numerous Cockle shells, dried Kina (sea urchins) and composting piles of leaves from the Beech tree die-back. Elephant fish lay large eggs in yellow brown capsules which measure about 25 x 10 cm, the capsules being laid on sand or mud in water less than 40m deep. The young hatch 6 to 8 months later and are slow growing, taking about 5 years to reach maturity.

The above is just a little fragment of the natural splendour which can be seen surrounding the Matai Bay hut during the spring, I look forward to seeing the changes during the summer season.

Beryl Archer 9/12/18

Safety over the holiday season.

Christmas is an exciting time for everyone and we all want it to go without a hitch. With so much going on it's important to enjoy this time of year and get in to the festive spirit! Always have these safety tips in the back of your mind when you are staying at Matai Bay hut so that your celebrations are a joyous occasion for all the family.



Candles:

Always use the candles on a heat resistant surface and put them in the proper holders to make sure they don't fall over. Candles should not be placed near the bunks or directly under anything. Be sure to extinguish candles before moving them or when you leave the hut, never leave a burning candle unattended. Keep candles out of reach of children.

Fireplaces:

It is now a CLOSED FIRE SEASON in Marlborough.

This means NO FIRES and there are NO EXCEPTIONS.

The fire place inside the hut is the only place you may light a fire.

Always protect yourself and family members while the fire is burning.

Do not attach any paper decorations above or around your fireplace as these can catch fire and burn easily. Take extreme care to ensure nothing falls onto the fire if you should be using the drying rack.



Food poisoning is not on anyone's holiday list:

When it comes to keeping food while at the hut it is vital that the relevant precautions are taken to prevent anyone becoming ill: Boil all drinking water.

Carry perishable foods frozen to the hut if possible, then store in a chilly bin. This will help to keep cool. Keep different foods in separate bins to avoid cross contamination. Use different chopping boards for raw and cooked foods.

Try not to use leftovers and do not reheat more than once. The best solution is to use pre-dried foods if possible.

On or near the water:

Always have your eyes on young children. Be aware of the creek at the back of the hut.

If swimming in the sea take care of the sharp rocks and oyster shells.

Ensure your kayaks are secured and well above the high tide line.

Personal:

Wash your hands after visiting the toilet or use hand sanitizer.

Watch the sun and use sunscreen and insect repellent. Use the screen on the window and doors.

Beware of wasps and bees in the area and take precautions.

A24 and A12 gas powered rodent and possum traps are placed in the vicinity. Advise children NOT to touch.

There is no cell phone coverage at the hut. Plan your trip, tell someone of your plans and use a PLB.

Brush up on any first aid knowledge so that if tragedy does strike you are prepared.

*Accidents can happen to anyone, even Santa,
Get into the Festive spirit, with safety in mind*

Childhood Memories

From the Sounds as it is remembered.

Linda recently spent some time with Alan Young while he reminisced with her his memories from his years in the Sounds. His tales of cattle driving, which he is prepared to share with us, were inspiring.

Alan was born in the Rai Valley and worked mustering and droving throughout the Tennyson Inlet and Marlborough District. Alan's mother and father, Nellie and George, were both born in Marlborough. Alan is one of 6 children; he has two brothers, Eric and Owen, and three sisters, Jean and Eila and a sister who sadly passed away four days after birth. He started mustering when he was approx five years old when he mustered a mob of sheep back to the farm he mustered.

His words tell us of some of his journeys.

Mustering Days

I can remember a time when Mum had sent me down to stay with Nana and Granddad. I didn't know why I was going to stay. Mum had sent me down with a brown overcoat she had made from an unused overcoat.

In the morning, I heard Granddad going out to let the dogs go. I dived out of bed in the dark rushed out in my pyjamas, boots with no socks, and asked where he was going? He told me he was going to Auntie Pearl's place; they had brought a farm in the Carluke area that had no stock on it. Granddad said you "can't come with me". I rushed back in and put on the overcoat. At a Totara log across the creek he waited for me, we went to Auntie Pearl and Uncle Max to pick up the sheep. This trip was my first experience in mustering as we took the sheep on down and put them into the sheep yards. On the way home Granddad told me "By the way, you had a baby brother last night."

My father was the butcher in Rai Valley and mustering in the area was how got animals in for slaughter. At the time, the fences were mostly Totara posts with a top wire and a bottom wire; no netting was available as it was wartime.

Bridle tracks had been put everywhere (including in Tennyson) as a means of access during an era of low work opportunities. That tracks were useful for mustering as they were the only means of accessing large sections of land.

Tennyson Inlet.

The first trip I ever remember was over to Tennyson inlet. Granddad had brought some cattle in Tennyson, and we went to drive them back to Rai Valley. We walked over the Opouri saddle track, sleeping in a little hut along the way. Once in Tuna and Penzance Bay, we picked up the cattle and drove them around to Henry Browns at Elaine Bay (via a bushwalking track)

We placed the cattle in yards before continuing onto Canoe Bay via a bridle track. We picked up a further seven cattle from Bob Black and drive them to the French Pass Road (only a track at the time). After picking up more cattle in Wairangi bay, we ventured back to Elaine Bay before continuing onto McLaren Bay to pick up even more cattle form the Stratford's. Finally, we made our way along the beach, up the steep face of Goat's pass we picked up the track to Croisilles / French Pass heading back out the Ronga Saddle to Rai Valley.

D'Urville Island.

Getting cattle off D'Urville required having one of the flatboats call in and winching the cattle on, as there was no puts or barges for crossing French Pass at the time.

The Pearl Kasper was a sailing scow with a long bowsprit. On one occasion she left Waitapu (Takaka) in the middle of the night. When daybreak came, the boy on the wheel saw a large object dangling off the bows of the ship. It turned out to be a long-drop dunny from the Waitapu wharf, snagged by the bowsprit as the ship swung round in the darkness to head out to sea. Luckily no one was in the dunny at the time.

After Wallie Orchard built the Pelorus Sound's first barge, farms would build stockyards close to the beach. He would put the bow of the boat up against the yards, allowing cattle to come straight on. This barge held about 70 cattle.

Farmers previously drove cattle through the bush to Kapawai (D'Urville Island) where they had a 20ft long boat clinker built dingy. They would tie manuka rails across the body of the dingy, with the cattle tied to the manuka rails, and then tow the dingy across French Pass using a launch. They'd then unhook the cattle on the other side, before mobbing them together and driving them to Rai. It was a desperate means of getting the cattle across.

For me, Life was never dull

Alan Young 9/12/2018

Calendars 2019

Each year we have a fundraising venture by way of a calendar. We rely on contributions of photographs from you all as supporters for this venture.

Entries required

For 2020 we will focus on the sights within the Marlborough Sounds area.

Now is the time to get your cameras out.

We require your photos to be...

- ❖ Submitted electronically with a file size between 1 MB and 5MB as jpg files.
- ❖ The only digital manipulation permitted is cropping, sharpening and tonal or exposure adjustments.
- ❖ Photos must be available for the calendar.
- ❖ Photo entries must be in landscape orientation.
- ❖ Cover photo is acceptable as a portrait orientation
- ❖ Submitters name will be credited to the photo.
- ❖ Photos must be available to use for other advertising purposes.
- ❖ **This year's calendar will be chosen from any photographs taken in the Marlborough Sounds Area.**



PLEASE forward your entries to

Beryl Archer at berylarchernz@gmail.com

We are looking forward to receiving your contributions.

Send these in today.

We require these by the 30th of May 2019

**Biz Cool
Polos
\$50.00**

Matai Bay Hut Polo Shirts



The Matai Bay Hut Trust has stylized “Biz Cool” Polo shirts available for purchase.

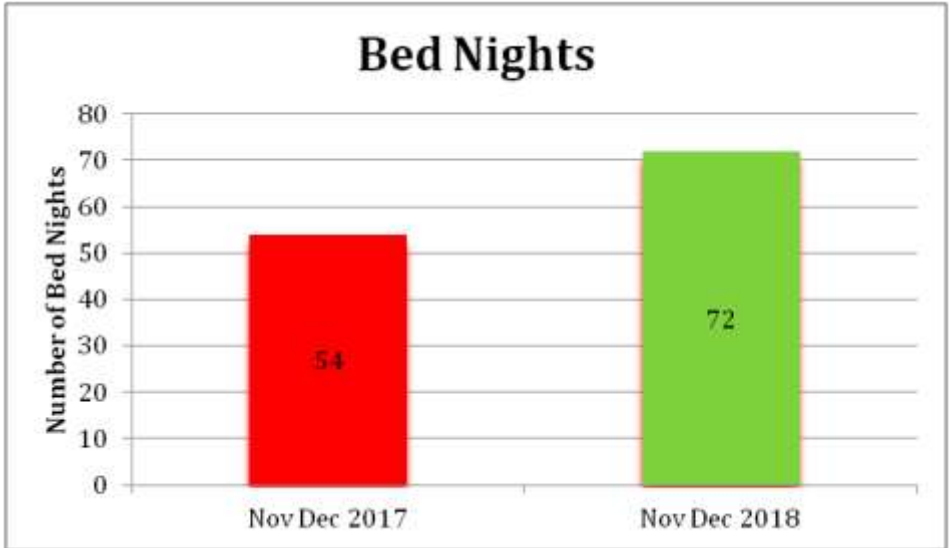


These have Matai Bay Hut Trust on the front, with a graphics of the hut on the back. The colour is slate grey with a lime green trim.

] These are great wearing and very cool.
Ladies and Gents sizes available.
\$50.00 each.

To purchase contact Linda,
Email: mataibayhut@gmail.com

Hut Booking Trends



Bed nights during the period: November 2018—December 2018



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About



www.mataibayhut.org.nz