



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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Chairperson's Welcome

With the shortest day behind us and the constellation of Matariki (Pleiades) rising in the northern night-sky - spring and summer are just around the corner! On behalf of the Matai Bay Hut Trust, welcome to this mid-year newsletter.

Looking back over the closing months of 2016 and 2017 so far, the Trust is very pleased to report visitor numbers to the Hut have been the highest ever. The Team is delighted to see bookings continue through winter months as more people discover and enjoy the beauty of Matai Bay. Of note are the increasing numbers of groups bringing children to Bay to experience the unique bush setting and authentic wilderness experience. These young people are our future, and it is great for them to have an appreciation for the beauty of the Marlborough Sounds.

With our sights on summer, we are happy to confirm that regular maintenance of the mooring, which is available for Hut users, has been scheduled with Johnson for completion when they are in the area. Please be aware of boat length restrictions. Additional work to ensure the Hut is in pristine condition has been carried out, and a huge thank you for those involved in making sure the facility is so welcoming for users.



Our recent annual-meeting with the Department of Conservation (DOC) was very positive with their staff expressing appreciation for the strong community support for the Hut. DOC staff is very pleased to see Hut use at such high levels. The agreement between DOC and the Trust is a great example of a successful partnership to get the best result for New Zealanders and visitors to the wilderness estate. Without a doubt, the success of the partnership is also due to you as a supporter / user of the Matai Bay Hut – please keep up the great work.

Hut History

The Matai Bay hut was originally built out of concern for the native bush being destroyed by noxious animals, mainly deer and opossums. In 1962, the New Zealand Forest Service was tasked with looking into eradication measures by the Croisilles/French Pass/D'Urville Island Reserves' board. Two years later, the Forest Service requested that a noxious animal control be implemented in the Duncan Bay Reserve.

However, the section holders of Duncan Bay raised a total of 27 objections in response to the proposal. While the Reserve Board supported the need for the base, it agreed with the section holders that the Duncan Bay Reserve was an unsuitable location. The Reserves Board instead proposed basing the animal control in Matai Bay.

Four years later, the Reserves Board organised the construction of a hut to assist the 'hunters and opossum trappers.' The building of the Tennyson Inlet Hut (as it would be named) was undertaken by Thorn and Hart. Construction was funded via a Government grant of \$610.00 (\$10,000 today). Building materials were punted across from Havelock by Eric Johnson and Sons for the sum of \$18.00 (\$300 today)(Ref. Minutes of Reserves board meetings).

Over the years the hut has gone through a number of changes as its usage has become more and more recreational. A major upgrade by the Maritime Parks Board occurred in the mid 1970s due to increasing public demand for park access. The hut is believed to have been rebuilt during this upgrade, during which it was moved closer to the sea.



Anecdotes of the original hut describe it as “ a scummy, hunter’s tin hut with a smelly smoky open fire”. Although the original hut offered little in the way of comfy sleep (with many preferring to sleep on their boats) it did offer some fantastic whitebaiting from the local creek.

If anyone has any information or anecdotes from the early days we would love to hear.

Beryl Archer 4/8/17

A Whale of A Visit

A recent visitor to the Tennyson Inlet area was a Bryde's (pronounced "broo-dess") whale.

For a number of days some locals spent an amount of time listening to the repeated "whosh" as the mammal cruised up and down the bay, surfacing approx every 20 minutes or so. There are thought to be less than 200 Bryde's whales left in New Zealand waters, so to be able to view this mammal in our close waters was exciting. Who knows what you may see on your way to Matai. It was a really special and interesting experience so we would like to share some facts with you.



FACTS

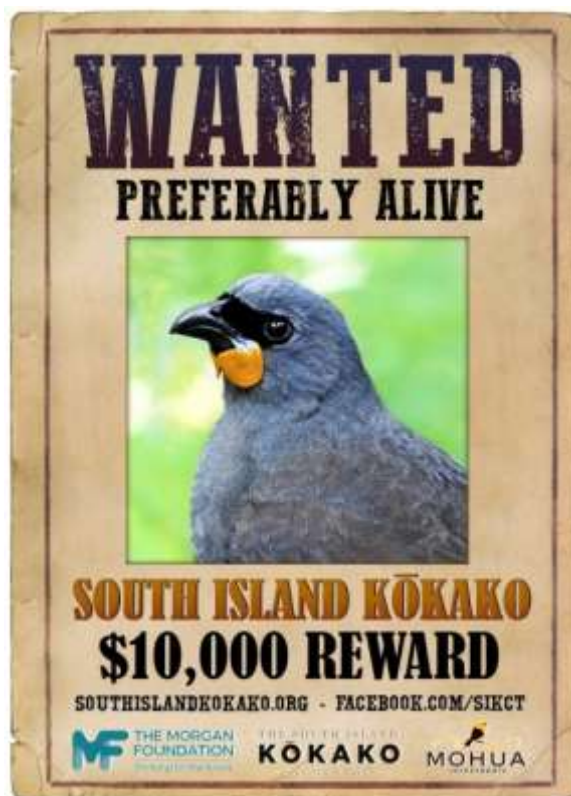
- Bryde's whale is considered a midsized whale with an average length of 40-55 ft.
- Bryde's whale was named after Johan Bryde, who helped build the first whaling factory in Durban, South Africa in 1909.
- When searching for food, the Bryde Whale can dive underwater for up to 20 minutes before resurfacing for air.
- Bryde's whale is a type of baleen whale and possesses baleen plates rather than teeth. The plates allow prey to be filtered from the water.
- Prey is commonly krill, shrimp, harrings, or sardines
- Bryde's whale is often found in areas where prey is abundant.
- Their blowholes have a splash guard, consisting of three ridges, to prevent the blowhole from taking in water
- Bryde's whales are often found either alone or in smaller groups of 2 - 4 whales.

The Search for the South Island Kokako

The South Island kōkako is an ancient bird that was once thrived throughout the forests of New Zealand's South Island. This beautiful kōkako graced the local area up the the 1960s, before being classified as extinct.

But some people did not lose hope. Although few in number, they began a four decade search for the beloved Kōkako. They have continued the search throughout the years with DOC's backing, and their search has begun to bear fruit.

Sightings have been report. While the Kōkako's existence has not been confirmed, the evidence has been compelling enough that the possibility of its existence has been recognised. In 2013 its status was reclassified form 'extinct' to 'data deficient by DOC



The change has renewed hops that the kōkako still exists, inspiring more and more people to join the search However, after four decades the numbers of any surviving kōkako are likely dwindling.

The search is now URGENT. The few survivors will need to be found and protected.

We're calling on all backcountry users to be our eyes and ears. We need you and we're offering you an even bigger reward. NZ\$10,000 is being offered to the person that provides the evidence required to confirm the continued existence of this very special bird.

The Morgan Foundation and the South Island Kōkako Trust hope that this boost to the reward will encourage even more people to be alert for kōkako calls and sightings in the native forests of the South and Stewart Islands

For more information check out:

www.southislandkokako.org

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/south-island-kokako>

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE KOKAKO

DESCRIPTION OF THE SOUTH ISLAND KOKAKO

- **Size:** Larger than a tui and smaller than a pigeon
- **Shape:** Long legs, relatively long tail, short rounded wings in flight, short stocky black beak with downward curve
- **Colour:** Dark grey or grey-blue in colour, black facial mask with an orangewattle
- **Movements:** Hopping or bounding gait, may be seen hopping along or up or down branches and tree trunks
- **Song:** The song has a sharp clarity compared with tui or other songbirds, particularly for flute-like notes. Also a 'hollow' depth to some notes, like a wind instrument or blowing across the top of a bottle; similar to a NI kōkako with 'mews', haunting organ-like and ringing bell-like notes and song
- **When:** The more active times of year are likely to be April-early June and October-December
- **Where:** South Island and Stewart Island native forests.

Keep your eyes and ears open during your stay





FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

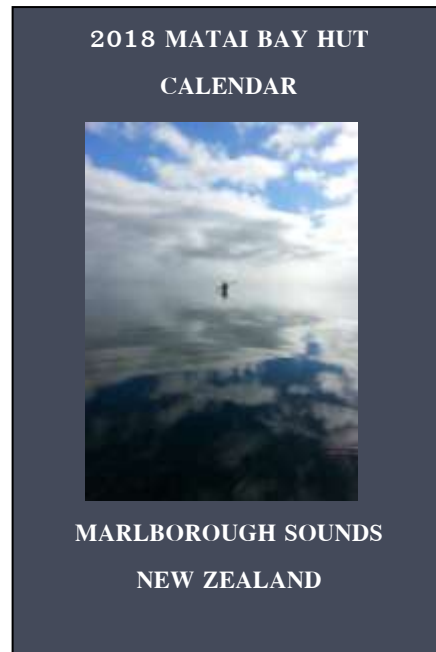
Each year the Matai Bay Hut Trust assembles a Fund Raising Calendar from photographs submitted from the Marlborough Sounds area.

The calendars will be available from the beginning of September. They make an excellent gift for friends and family or to send overseas.

These are available from any Trust Member or

- ❖ Beryl Archer Ph 03 576 5292
berylarcher@xtra.co.nz
- ❖ Linda Booth Ph 03 576 5570
doug.linda2@gmail.com
- ❖ Jane Nichol Ph 03 576 5133
janenichol@clear.net.nz

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED



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

Matai Bay Hut Polo Shirts

Biz Cool
Polos
\$50.00

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

Topics of Interest

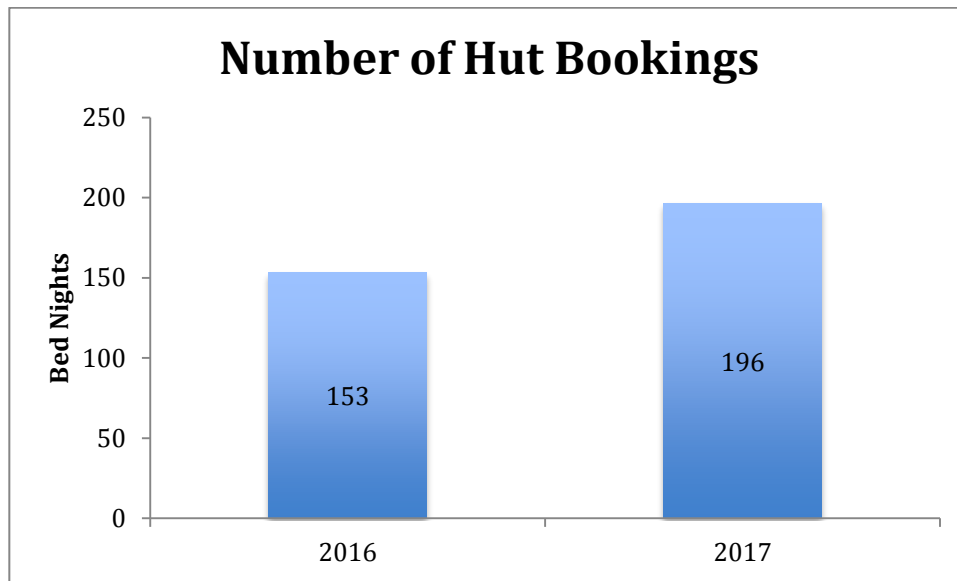


A brave fight against the weather and changing foreshore caused the uprooting of the Ngaio tree at the entrance to the Matai Bay Hut during the July storm.

If trees could talk we would be so much wiser, sit awhile and ponder on the joy this old tree gave to both young and old.



Hut Booking Trends



Bed Nights during the summer period: March-July

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