



## **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

Fabulous – Awesome – Wonderful, are just a few of the words that people are using to describe this year's Matai Bay Hut Calendar. To date, we know these great pictorial representations of paradise will be hanging on the walls of homes and workplaces throughout Aotearoa. In addition, calendars have been sent around the globe to various destinations including – Scotland, Thailand, Indonesia, Iceland, India, Antarctica, several states in the USA, and of course Australia. On behalf of the Trust, thank you to all the contributors and purchasers – the calendar project is our main fund-raising of the year. Additionally, a special thanks to Beryl, Jane and Linda for their tireless work to ensure this project's success. If you have not managed to secure a calendar yet, then you had better be quick. We do have a small number left – so, contact Linda asap.

The public-private partnership between the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Matai Bay Hut Trust is an excellent example of an effective partnership between a local community and a Government agency. In this instance, the primary goal of DOC and the community is to encourage people to visit and enjoy the wonderful natural surroundings of Matai Bay. The Hut is a critical part of that success, which is clearly shown through the rising numbers of people using the Hut during 2017. DOC is very supportive of the work of the Trust and has commented many times on the immensely positive influence that our community has had on the Hut and surrounds.

This summer and 2018 are shaping up to be another busy one for the Trust with a considerable number of bookings in place. That said, there are still dates open. So, open your diary (or call a family meeting) and plan a few nights away in paradise. Additionally, we have a fun day planned for the 12th of January for people to experience the wonder of Matai Bay. This event has been a great success in the past so mark your new Calendar with the date.

On behalf of the Trust members, I wish you all the best for the holidays and the New Year. Remember to keep safe.

Naku noa  
Greg Durkin.



# EXPLORE MATAI BAY HUT

12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Commencing at 10.30am

Come and join us for the fun of exploring the Matai Bay area  
and the little gem which is the Matai Bay hut.

## Activities and adventure for the children and adults.

Bring your picnic lunch, damper bread made in the camp oven  
will be supplied. You may get wet feet getting ashore so please  
be prepared.

Book a place with Blue Safari Charters which will depart  
Penzance 9.30am and Duncan Bay 10.00am returning  
approximately 3.30pm .

Cost of return trip: \$20.00 adults: \$10.00 for children  
All activities are FREE

Contact:

Matai Bay Hut: [Mataibayhut@gmail.com](mailto:Mataibayhut@gmail.com)

Linda Booth: [doug.linda2@gmail.com](mailto:doug.linda2@gmail.com) 03 5765 570

Beryl Archer: [berylarcher@xtra.co.nz](mailto:berylarcher@xtra.co.nz) 03 5765 292



**Please RSVP before 07.01.2018**

## The Ocean Glow at Matai

Did you know the Marlborough Sounds' waters can be just as bright at night as they are in the midday sun? Phosphorescence in the water makes a trail of lights that is quite mesmerizing. It is not uncommon to see this phenomenon in the sounds after hours.

It is the result of the bioluminescence of organisms in the surface layers of the sea. Much like fireflies flitting through the air, the algae (of a wide variety of species) emit a glow whenever they are jostled.

The luminescence of these organisms is stimulated by movement or when they collide with each other. Fish swimming around and boats moving can spark the phosphorescence, and from a practical point of view it can be useful for fishing at night as it helps detect concentrations of fish.

To create a bit of magic for the kids, you can make the glow yourself by lying on a jetty and running your hands through the water, or going for a night swim. They will talk about it for weeks! Do you have any images of the ocean's glow in the Marlborough Sounds? If so, we would love to see them!



**SALE**

# Would you like to purchase your own trap?

The Matai Bay Hut Trust, in conjunction with the Tennyson Inlet Islands Trust, is purchasing several **A24 Rat and Stoat Traps** for predator control around Matai Bay and on the Tennyson Inlet Islands. We are offering the opportunity to piggy-back off us and by your own.

## The A24 Rat and Stoat Trap

- Easy to install.
  - Small
  - Self-resetting
- Instant and Effective
  - Humane
- Safe around pets
- Eco-friendly

The A12 Possum trap is the cleanest and most humane way to control possums and it's easy for everyone to use. The trap works by delivering a powerful impact that kills pests instantly **every time**.

The lure is long life and toxin free, leaving nothing nasty for the environment. Both the trap and toxin are safe around your pets.

## Perfect for your backyard.

For more information on costings please contact either  
Linda Booth: [doug.linda2@gmail.com](mailto:doug.linda2@gmail.com) Phone: 035765570

Or Matai Bay Hut [mataibayhut@gmail.com](mailto:mataibayhut@gmail.com).



## Opium, War, and Slavery: The HMS Pelorus

July 1808, the Napoleonic War was at its height. Emperor Napoleon controlled most of Europe and recent battles had left only Britain and Sweden opposing him.

The British Royal Navy, in desperate need of ships, began mass producing the economic 18-gun Cruiser Class brig-sloop. One such sloop was the seemingly insignificant HMS Pelorus.

Built in Itchenor, England - the HMS Pelorus was first commissioned under Commander James William King. With the war going, it wasn't long before the Pelorus got its first taste of combat. In February 1809, the ship took part in the invasion of Martinique. The battle significantly crippled French power in the Caribbean.



In a funny twist, command of the Pelorus had been transferred to Commander Thomas Huskisson a month earlier. However, a miscommunication meant that Huskisson didn't learn of this until May, long after the Invasion of Martinique. Thankfully, things were sorted, and he was in command during the blockade of the nearby Guadeloupe a year later.

The Pelorus spent the rest of the Napoleonic War patrolling the Caribbean, capturing French and American privateers. During this time command transferred through multiple commanders including Joshua Rowley. Command continued to transfer after the war ended, with the Pelorus performing several duties including protecting British trade ships and capturing smugglers.

In September 1831, command of the Pelorus was transferred to Captain Richard Meredith as part of the West Africa Squadron. They patrolled Africa, suppressing the slave trade. During this time, Pelorus rescued over 1300 people from Spanish slavers. Her most notable feat was capturing the Minerva in 1835 without suffering any casualties, freeing 676 slaves in the process.

As the end of the decade neared, command of the Pelorus was transferred yet again. Captain Francis Harding took command on the 31 January 1837 and she sailed for Australia, assisting in the fight against rebels in both India and the Indian Ocean. One year later, in 1838, she sailed for New Zealand; having been tasked with surveying the Marlborough region.

## The HMS Pelorus cont.

In another twist, Pelorus was not under Harding's command during the survey. Due to illness, he transferred command to Lieutenant Phillip Chetwode (after whom the Chetwode Islands are named). Guided by whaler John Guard, the Pelorus entered the sound using the narrow pass between Forsyth Island and the Mainland.

For eight days, the Pelorus sailed through and surveyed the sound. During this time John Guard told Chetwode of a large navigable river, known by the natives as Te Hoeire. By the end of the survey, both the river and the sound were named Pelorus in honour of the ship.

Sadly, things did not go well for Pelorus after the survey was complete. On 25 November 1839, under the command of Augustus Leopold Kuper, the Pelorus was hit by hurricane winds while anchored off Port Essington in Australia. The storm killed 12 crewmen and left the ship in nine feet of mud for 86 days. After repairs were complete in July 1840, the Pelorus sailed for Singapore, and took part in the First Opium War.



Thirty-two years of war and service had begun to take their toll on Pelorus. On October 16, 1841, the Admiralty ordered the ship be sold. She was bought by the Pybus Brothers, in 1842, who used her for trading opium under the command of Captain Triggs.

However, this new role was short lived. On Christmas Day, 1844, the Pelorus struck a shoal in the South China sea (just off the coast of Borneo). Captain Triggs was able to reach Singapore (160 km away), using the Pelorus' gig, and bring back help. Although unable to save the Pelorus, he saved 20 crew members (along with 70 chests of Opium).

It is unknown what became of the Pelorus after the wreck. However, its memory lives on in the Marlborough region as the name sake of both the Pelorus River and the Pelorus Sound, home of the Matai Bay Hut.



Biz Cool  
Polos  
\$55.00

## 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.

\$55.00 each.

To purchase contact Linda,

Email: [mataibayhut@gmail.com](mailto:mataibayhut@gmail.com)

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## Hut Booking Trends



**Bed Nights during the period: November 2016 – October 2017**

 Find us on  
**Facebook**  
Search for "Matai Bay Hut"

