

# 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.

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**BOOK TODAY**

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

## Matai Bay Hut Trust Chair's Report

Greg Durkin April 2023

Kia ora koutou I would like to start my report with a Māori whakatauki (proverb).

E kite ai ngā taonga o te moana, me maku koe.  
If you seek the treasure of the ocean, you'd better get wet.

The meaning behind these words is simple, great things take effort and sometimes you need to move outside of your comfort zone to achieve whatever it is you desire.

In many regards, the continuing journey and success of the Matai Bay Hut Trust is a great example. What we have created on behalf of the community and DoC has taken considerable effort and continues to require dedication. Yes, some of the faces of the Trust have changed and may continue to do so, but the central kaupapa (purpose) endures, and we can all take immense pleasure and pride in that.

The end of the Trust's financial year in October 2022 seems like yesterday, but here we are six months on. Our trustees have done a great job to keep visitors to the Hut well informed, along with maintaining this valuable resource. As a Trust, our goal is simple: preserve and manage the Matai Bay Hut on behalf of DoC to provide opportunities for people to access this slice of paradise and enjoy. Without a doubt, this goal has been achieved to a very high standard.

Our AGM considers the Trust's activities for the period of 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022. Since the last AGM the country has opened its doors to tourism both internal and from overseas. In this regard, I note that Hut bookings have continued to be high with usage extending beyond the traditional summer season. We continue to attract new visitors and a good number of previous users.

As you would expect, use of the Hut brings its share of wear and tear. My thanks to all of those involved with regular maintenance and careful monitoring. Because of this, the facility looks and feels comfortable, safe and dry. It is great to note several comments from Hut users about the local bush and foreshore. Many families have told us about the immense pleasure children and adults had exploring the Bay. The information we provide about the bush and surrounds plays an important role in this regard. The unsung heroes of the Trust are those people who volunteer their time to undertake the many functions needed for its smooth operation.

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT CONTINUED

Whether that be keeping bookings up to date, managing the money, organising cleaning rosters, answering various questions people have, maintaining our digital presence or newsletter – my heartfelt thanks on behalf of all Hut users goes to all involved in this important work.

Apart from the building itself, the Matai Bay Hut Calendar fund-raiser remains a tangible example of community support and dedication. Managing this annual task takes a lot of time and effort. Thank you, Beryl and team, for sorting through the many photos proposed and producing an awesome calendar in 2022. In addition, thanks to all the contributors, sellers, and purchasers – we could not do this without you

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 our local communities forging a solid 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. As we look forward to another year, I am pleased to advise the future of the Matai Bay Hut is well resourced and secure. 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.

Naku noa  
Greg Durkin Chair



## OUR FUND-RAISING CALENDAR

### **Our first calendar**

was published in 2013, an A4 size calendar, depicting the hut and its beautiful surroundings.

### **Today**

We focus on sights and scenes photographed in the sounds, always considering any images you enter.

**The images we receive are all collated then approx. 50% are chosen by four committee members and sent to the Executive Director and Publisher of Potton & Burton Ltd who selects thirteen for publication.**



We changed to the A3 size calendar in 2015 to better showcase the magnificent scenic photos you send.

The quality of images is paramount, but the subject is up to your imagination, if it's about the Marlborough Sounds.

If you have any specific topics you would like to see more emphasis on please let me know.

Perhaps a series of black and white or historical Sounds images? Any other recommendations are welcome.

Email your suggestions to Beryl today on [berylarcher@xtra.co.nz](mailto:berylarcher@xtra.co.nz)





## MATAI HUT - HEALTH AND SAFETY

We have received reports that melted candle wax was found on the window sills inside the hut.

Inappropriately positioned candles have caused many fires around NZ and with no fire brigade in the wilderness we find ourselves in the position of concern for the safety of the Hut, the native bush and our Hut users – so please accept this timely reminder to use extreme caution when lighting candles in the Matai hut.

### REMEMBER Candles must be

- Used only when you are in the hut and not left burning unattended
- Placed in a secure holder that cannot be knocked over
- Placed on metal rather than wooden surfaces
- Situated well away from walls, windows and adjacent flammable objects
- Not used when you are close to falling asleep – prior to retiring for the night please use a headlamp for light

## MATAI HUT - CHECKERS

Sounds like an interesting game?, but no it's a band of merry men/women, whom climb aboard their kayaks, or runabouts to travel to Matai Bay to ensure the hut is clean and tidy for the lucky folk who have booked the hut.

They ensure there are candles, toilet paper, wood for that cosy fire and if not replenish supplies. They cut the grass, clear the track, at times they have needed to sweep the hut, clean the toilets and even row ashore a load of firewood.

Then there's the rat traps to rebait and re-gas, etc, etc. The chores never go away but the pleasure of visiting the Hut to oversee the upkeep is one that is carried out by our Checkers monthly - thank you to all the Checkers!

Your work is greatly appreciated.

## MAITAI HUT - HOW TO BOOK

For fees and bookings please contact us by email at  
[mataibayhut@gmail.com](mailto:mataibayhut@gmail.com)

booking agents are:

Linda Booth: 027 436 9485

Beryl Archer : 03 576 5292

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