



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.

Chairperson's Report

When communities get involved in projects for the benefit of people – success is often the result. The partnership between the people of Tennyson Inlet and the Department of Conservation (DOC) to manage the Matai Bay Hut is a great example of this. Over the last few years our close collaboration with DOC has resulted in the transformation of the facilities at Matai Bay into a wonderful place for families, whanau, groups and individuals to relax and take in the beautiful natural surroundings.

Management of bookings, maintaining the facility, and promotion of the Hut are key activities of Trust. With regard to these:

- Numbers of people visiting Matai Bay Hut have continued to climb, with an excellent blend of new visitors and those returning for another dose of heaven.
- The Hut has - a new paint job on the outside, mattresses replaced, new sections of flu for the fire, had a super-duper spring clean.
- Increased use of Face-book and a new web page for the Hut have certainly helped to spread the word.
- Plus, we are providing colourful signage to help people identify the many different trees and birds found in the bay.

Great news - if you are looking for a great Christmas gift or a way of reminding someone of the Sounds – then we have a deal for you! Finance to keep the Hut in pristine condition comes mainly from the sale of Matai Bay Hut Calendars, which feature fabulous images of the Sounds. All of the wonderful images are taken by locals or visitors, and give you a real sense of this special place. Matai Bay Hut Calendars are very popular with previous years' stock selling like hot-cakes. Apart from NZ, these little beauties are sent as far as U.K, Scotland, India, Thailand and Antarctica. Please check out how to order your Matai Bay Hut Calendars later in the newsletter. Also, my special thanks to the Trustees and supporters that compile, organise and sell the Calendars.

If you have any comments or question about the Hut or Trust please contact us. We would love to hear from you.

Ka kite

Greg Durkin.

Enjoy a Great Outdoor Experience.



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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Visiting Tennyson Inlet this summer? What to do on your visit.

Are you planning a visit to Tennyson Inlet during the summer break, wondering what to do? Let us share some adventures within the area.

Tennyson Inlet itself is named after the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson, while Tuna Bay is Named for the abundance of eels (tuna in te reo), Duncan Bay after the pioneer sawmillier and Penzance Bay from the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta "Pirates of Penzance", after a notorious former resident of the bay who, along with her family, engaged in a variety of criminal activities.

The Opouri Bridle Track.

The track commences from the top of the Opouri Saddle or from the Booth link Track at the northern end. This is a 3 km track through native forest and farmland from Opouri Saddle down to Harvey Bay (Duncan Bay). It is very steep and rocky in places and the streams are not bridged. You can mountain bike on Opouri Bridle Track - a fun downhill alternative to the road, however, most riders will find parts of the track unrideable.

Harvey Bay Camping ground.

Turn off SH6 north of Rai Valley onto Ronga Road, right onto Opouri Road/Tennyson Inlet Road; follow this for 27 km over the Opouri Saddle to the campsite on the left. The area consists of a large, flat, sheltered camping area that makes a great base for exploring Tennyson Inlet and the nearby area by boat, on foot or by mountain bike. Access is on a sealed road which is steep, winding and narrow and not suitable for light towing vehicles. Boat access: 2 km from Duncan Bay.

Fees; Pay cash on arrival at the self-registration stand at the campsite.

- Adult (18+ years): \$8 per night
- Child (5 - 17 years): \$4 per night
- Infant (0 - 4 years): free

Penzance / Tuna Bay.

Penzance Bay is a popular bay located in Tennyson Inlet, within the Marlborough Sounds. Tennyson Inlet is an arm of Pelorus Sound. The bay is immediately north of Tuna Bay which is accessed by the same road. Penzance's beach is of gravel, which is unusual for this area of the Marlborough Sounds. This gives the beach a good reputation for safe and pleasant swimming. The bay contains a boat ramp, a large wharf, and a swimming island. These facilities coupled with ease of access gives the bay a great reputation for boating activities and fishing. There are walking tracks which link many of the adjacent bays together, such as Duncan Bay and Elaine Bay. Penzance is surrounded with native forest, much of it is untouched. The native forest contains large southern beech trees.

The Archer Track.

This walking and mountain biking track passes through native and pine forest from Penzance Bay to Elaine Bay. Allow 1 hour 30 minutes to Deep Bay which is half way, or 3

hours to walk the whole track. Enjoy stunning views of Tennyson Inlet and islands from this track. The bush goes right to the coast along part of the track and then opens out into pine forest closer to Elaine Bay. You can also start the track from Elaine Bay which is accessed from the road to French Pass.

Okiwi Bay & Elaine Bay.

Getting to Okiwi Bay and beyond to French Pass is a journey that many campers take. On the way, there are other less distant camping options. One particular place is Elaine Bay that faces into Tennyson Inlet. This is an ideal place to launch a boat or kayak into the calm waters of the inlet and to cruise around the wider Pelorus Sound. The views are great out to Maud Island and beyond, and the hint of potential adventure around every little bay in the inlet. Elaine Bay has a standard DOC campsite with water on tap, toilets and other basic facilities for 20 tent sites. Fees \$6.00 adult (\$1.50 child)/night. Sea Kayaks are available from Explore Pelorus in Elaine Bay. Hire a kayak and explore Tennyson Inlet and the other remote places in the beautiful Pelorus Sound. Neil specialises in freedom double sea kayak hire, wilderness / escape holidays, and group sea kayaking trips in the Pelorus Sound. He has local knowledge of sea conditions, destinations and helpful instruction, with a full range of safety gear available whether you are a seasoned professional or kayaking for the first time.

Tawhitinui, Tarakaipa, and Awaiti Islands.

These unoccupied Tennyson Inlet Islands are located in the head waters of the Pelorus Sound. Tarakaipa and Tawhitinui Islands are the two largest islands in the inlet. Well worth a paddle around the Islands with many secluded sheltered beaches suitable for a picnic.

Duncan Bay.

Tennyson Inlet contains three main settlements. These settlements are Duncan Bay, Penzance Bay, and Elaine Bay (south to north). The other bays are Te Mako, Harvey Bay, Ngawhakawhiti, Tuna, Godsiff (aka Matai Bay), Deep and Tawa Bay. There are walking tracks along some of the inlet which connects the bays together, including the Nydia Track. Duncan Bay is at the start of the Nydia Track, a two-day walk ending at Kaiuma Bay in Pelorus Sound. Much of this area remains in pristine indigenous beech and podocarp forest.

Enjoy the following walks within the immediate area of Duncan Bay.

Arnies Track.

A brilliant bush walk from the top of the cul de sac on Matai Street. Follow the Wilky Way sign up to the water tanks then continue on through the bush to the water intake approx 1.5 km with a small waterfall at the end.

Old Stone wharf.

A short walk along the road leading out of the Bay takes you to the site which was built in the 1930s and restored by the residents in 1996. Originally there were cattle yards to the right of the wharf.

Pipi Beach Track.

From the wharf area in Duncan Bay follow the Nydia Track for 15 minutes before venturing slightly left for a visit to Pipi beach. The track is suitable for all ages this far. The area is best at low tide and is excellent beach for swimming or picnicking.

Nydia Track.

The start of the Nydia Track commences from the wharf area at Duncan Bay. The track winds its way from Pelorus Sound to Tennyson Inlet and passes through Nydia Bay. Walk up to Kaiuma or Nydia Saddles where you will be rewarded with views back into the bay or beyond. It's one of the less-accessible and lesser-known tracks in the Marlborough Sounds but the rewards are rich. The climb through dense, damp podocarp is tricky in places, with streams to ford and boulders and fallen trees to traverse. The track dips and rises and disappears in places until you reach the saddle at 400m. But it's an inspiring walk with giant rimu (our guide, Nick, reckons some are around 500 years old), big rata vines, red beech, myriad ferns and ponga, all thriving in bush that receives plenty of rain even in a dry summer, and plenty of birdsong.

This is a shared track so don't be surprised to see mountain bikers taking advantage of the great scenery and riding opportunities.

There are 8 tent sites at Nydia Bay DOC camp site and because there is only boat access or people on foot or bike, you will feel a lot more isolated without vehicles nearby. The campsite is on one side of the bay and Nydia Lodge is opposite. The bookable DOC lodge is particularly popular with school groups who have the chance to get away from the rigors of school life for a bit of time in the outdoors. Sounds good? Sounds great!

Matai Bay Hut.

Matai Bay Hut is nestled in native bush in Godsiff (Matai Bay) and provides a great base for fishing, hunting, sea kayaking and swimming. The hut can only be accessed by boat to the shallow stone beach where it is sited. There is a mooring in the bay available for hut users only. Although this is a registered mooring, hut users acknowledge that they use this mooring at their own risk in all respects.

Hunters must have a permit and this can be obtained online or arranged with any DOC Office or Visitor Centre in Nelson/Marlborough.

Facilities at the hut consist of

- Woodstove for heating only - you need to take your own cooker, cooking equipment and utensils
- The water supply is the freshwater stream next to the hut. We recommend that water is boiled, filtered or treated before using it
- Long-drop toilet close to the hut
- If you sea kayak, remember to leave your kayak well above the high tide mark which can come very close to the hut.
- **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. SEE PAGE 3 for Booking details**

Tawa Bay DOC campsite.

Tawa Bay is only accessible by boat or kayak. If you decided to stay overnight, there are tent sites at \$6.00 adult (\$1.50 child)/night

Calendars 2019

\$15.00

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 for sale now.

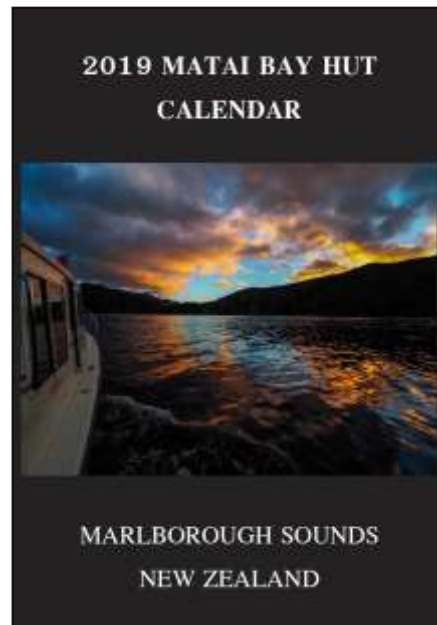
They make an excellent gift for friends and family or to send overseas.

These are available from any Trust Member or

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**Direct credit
payments available.**

THANK YOU

**FOR ASSISTING US TO MAINTAIN THE HUT
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY.**

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Matai Bay Hut

Imagine.....

Taking your children or grandchildren,
into a magnificent bush area
where native trees tower above you,
where the creek runs clear
and the native birdsong is plentiful.



Visit the website

Our domain name is www.mataibayhut.org.nz
Here you will find all the information required
for the hut including

- Ask a question ·
- Bookings ·
 - Who to contact ·
 - Information & Fees ·
 - Personal Safety ·
- Documents ·
 - Supporters Registration Form ·
 - History ·
 - Trust Vision & Structure ·
- Newsletters ·
- Invitations ·
 - Fund Raising Calendar information.
 -
- Photos ·
 - The Hut ·
 - Things to do and see ·
 - Activities ·
 - History of the hut ·



Visit the site today and remember to share our Facebook page with your friends and family. Your contributions to the page are always welcome.

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

New Zealand's Guardian Dolphin “Pelorus Jack”

Pelorus Jack is an iconic dolphin that spent approx 24 years guiding ships through a stretch of the Cook Strait in New Zealand. He was a rare gem in many ways; not just because of his heroic duties, but also due to the fact his species is not commonly found in the area he called home.

Records indicate that Pelorus Jack was a Risso's dolphin, a species that's incredibly hard to find in New Zealand. He was often described as white or albino, with distinctive grey shadings and a rounded head. Nobody has been able to certify the dolphin's gender, but its size – which was reported to be between 2.7 metres (nine feet) and 4.3 metres (15 feet) – indicated that Pelorus Jack was in fact male.

A Risso's female doesn't grow to more than 3.7 metres (12 feet) in size, whereas males tend to be four metres

Pelorus Jack was first sighted in 1888, where he would personally escort the ships travelling between the capital Wellington and the upper South Island city of Nelson. He would join the vessels at the entrance of the Pelorus Sound (hence his name), swimming alongside the boats until they reached the treacherous

French Pass, a narrow channel that separates D'Urville Island (at the northern tip of the South Island) from the mainland coast of the Tasman Bay.

The dolphin always confined himself to a specific area, never actually entering the French Pass. On a reverse journey he met ships that came out of the pass and accompanied them for approximately eight kilometres (4.5 miles) before swimming away. He would get quite close to passing boats and had a known affinity for surfing the bow waves.

Pelorus Jack was notoriously picky about his companions. He would often snub wooden hulled ships and sailing vessels, opting instead to accompany the most powerful, steel-hulled steamers – in other words, the types of ships that would produce the best bow waves for this playful dolphin to ride.

As the years went by, Pelorus Jack became a bit of a celebrity – practically a tourist attraction in his own right. American author Mark Twain and English writer Frank T. Bullen are some of the notable visitors who revered the iconic Risso's dolphin.

His fame also attracted an unwelcome sense of malice. In 1904 a passenger aboard the *SS Penguin* tried to shoot poor Pelorus Jack; luckily a fleet of screaming passengers alerted the crew about the danger and they were able to restrain and disarm him.

Pelorus Jack never accompanied the *SS Penguin* again and the steamer sank off the



South Wellington Coast not much later – thus, reinforcing the superstition that a ship abandoned by the dolphin would ultimately meet its demise.

That episode led to growing public demands to grant Pelorus Jack some form of legal protection. It was around that time, too, that our hero was formally identified as a Risso's dolphin. In 1904 the Governor, Lord Plunket, signed an Order in Council decree that made it illegal to take the species from the waters of the Cook Strait and its surroundings. The order came with punishable fines ranging between £5 and £100 and made New Zealand the first country in the world to grant legal protection to a single marine creature.

Nobody knows exactly how Pelorus Jack died. As he grew older, he definitely slowed down – and passing ships often reduced their speeds to follow their ageing companion. But eventually, the dolphin disappeared; the last sighting is believed to have been in April 1912. It is rumoured that a group of Norwegian whalers in the Pelorus Sound harpooned the dolphin that year.

There's also an account of a deathbed confession by a man who believes he and his father killed the stranded Pelorus Jack after a storm. Then there's Charlie Moeller's version: the man, who maintained the marine light at the French Pass, claimed that the dolphin washed up on the beach where his carcass rotted away. Given the dolphin was 24 years old, right on the cusp of his species' life expectancy, dying of old age was never ruled out of the picture.

The legend of Pelorus Jack continues to make its mark in the world today.

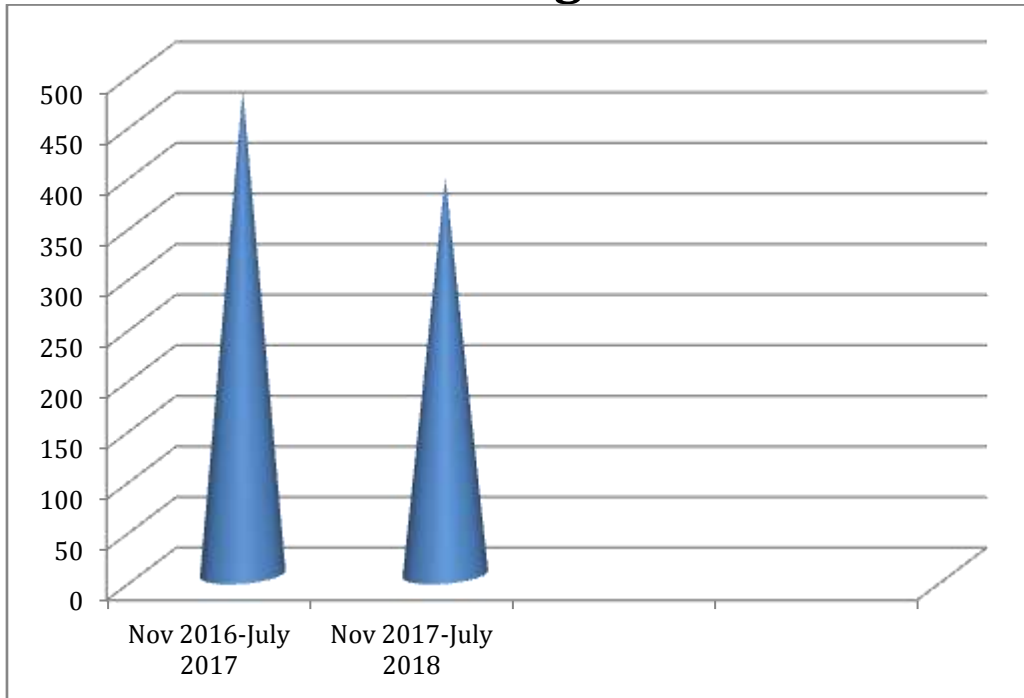
A popular Scottish Country dance was named after the dolphin – incidentally, it features a set of alternating tandem half-reels now known as 'dolphin reels'.

Since 1989, Pelorus Jack has been used in the logo for the Inter-island ferry service that travels from Wellington to Picton via the Cook Strait. A chocolate bar was also named after him.



In 2016 a life size bronze sculpture was raised in Collinet Point, overlooking the French Pass in his honour.

Hut Booking Trends



Number of Bed Nights	
2016-17	2017-18
478	392

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Search for "Matai Bay Hut"

