

Te Paateka/Maud Island Pelorus Cluster Visits 2015



We are looking forward to your school visit to Te Paateka/Maud Island during the week of 16-20 March. This opportunity is special and the island is unique with amazing inhabitants. The following will help you plan for your stay.

About Te Paateka/Maud Island

Te Paateka/Maud Island is a relatively sheltered island in outer Pelorus Sound, in the Marlborough Sounds. It is a scientific reserve and serves as a predator-free island sanctuary for native species. The island covers 318 hectares of predominantly regenerating coastal forest characteristic of the inner-Sounds, and rises to 368 metres above sea level. A distinctive feature is a peninsula jutting out 1.5 kilometres. On Maud's north-west side the mainland is a mere 900 metres away. This narrow channel can be swum by stoats and trapping takes place both on the island and mainland to prevent their invasion.

Some of these species are unique to the island and some are rare and in danger of extinction in mainland areas where non-native pests threaten their survival. It is the second-largest island reserve in the Marlborough Sounds.

Although historically the island has been virtually denuded of forest and heavily grazed for decades, its native vegetation has been making an impressive comeback. It is one of the few islands that has never had rats, mice, or stoats become established for any length of time. For this reason it is notable for its rich unique fauna, which includes the Cook Strait giant weta, Cook Strait click beetle, a giant *Powelliphanta* land snail, and the flax weevil. It is also home to the Maud Island/Pakeka frog (endemic to Maud only), and to the Cook Strait striped gecko, found only on Maud and Stephens Island. The island also normally provides sanctuary to a small population of one of New Zealand's most endangered birds, the takahe.

Please note there are no takahe on the island at present.

This is an opportunity to experience one of NZ's leading wildlife sanctuaries. The island is one of New Zealand's most important wildlife sanctuaries and because of this certain rules have to be followed to ensure that human visits do not jeopardise the wildlife or their habitats. Please treat the island with utmost respect.



Prior to your trip

Teachers/supervisors for each trip will be asked to provide their full details, address and passport number, and details of the adults and students accompanying them to the island. This is so that we can undertake an entry/landing permit process which gives your group permission to land on Maud/Te Paateka. There is a limit to the size of each group - a total of no more than 12 people (eg: up to 10 children, 1 teacher and 1 parent) per trip. This limit is due to a combination of accommodation, cooking facilities, boat and staffing levels on the island.

Please send the above information, along with the proposed date of your trip, to picton@doc.govt.nz as soon as practicable so the permit process can get underway.

You will be required to go through a quarantine process prior to departing for the island. All your gear will be checked and then repacked into sealed buckets and dry bags. If any item does not pass inspection it will not be taken to the island. Please ensure that you take every precaution to prevent accidental introduction of pests and weeds.

- Do not leave packs or other gear where mice or other pests may enter (eg. overnight in garages, outside etc.).
- Clean all soil off boots, empty or clean all pockets, velcro fasteners, socks etc., of any debris that may contain plant seeds.
- All clothing to be washed before heading to the island.
- Food will be packed in fully sealed containers such as plastic bins with sealable lid.
- No home-grown or organic vegetables and fruit. Home cooked food is fine, but it must be quarantined.



What we expect from you

Please advise DOC rangers on the island of any medical conditions, allergies etc that may present problems so that we can be prepared in such circumstances. Please ensure that supervisors/students have adequate supplies of any medication they require.

The island is visited at your own risk. While DOC rangers will ensure as far as possible that high standards for safety are maintained, please ensure your school has a Health and Safety plan/Risk Analysis and Management System form for this trip.

You will be expected to follow the directions of the rangers, who will provide a briefing on the specific rules once your group is on the island. Permission to visit the island does not mean automatic right to do as you please and you must follow the instructions and guidance given to you by the rangers on the island.

Your first day

Your group will be asked to arrive at the DOC Havelock Base, 13 Mahakipawa Road, at 8am on the day of your trip to Maud Island.

You will then go through the quarantine process, which can take 1 to 1.5 hours. This process is outlined briefly above, and further information is available with the entry/landing permit you will be issued with.

You will then head out to the island via your arranged transport. You are encouraged to have snacks/drink prior to boarding the boat, otherwise all food must be packed in bins prior to departure, and food may not be available for several hours.

On arrival to the island all the gear will be offloaded and transported via ATV to the island quarantine room. You will then recheck your gear before being able to unpack in the lodge.

Minimise disturbance to wildlife

The welfare of the island's wildlife is of the highest priority. Any disturbance of wildlife or their habitat for whatever reason must be kept to the minimum. By staying on the formed tracks or pasture areas the risk of disturbance will be minimised. Visitors are not permitted to take plants or animals (whether dead or alive), rocks or soil samples off the island.

Respect access rules

Certain parts of the island may be off-limits due to their sensitivity to damage or scientific importance. Please respect these access restrictions. On arrival at the island you will be required to pass all your footwear across a chemical treatment pad. This is to help reduce the risk of infections being introduced to the wildlife.

Take care with fire

Fire has the potential to destroy the island's houses, regenerating vegetation and to threaten the survival of some of the island's most important species, such as takahe and the Maud Island frog. Open fires are not permitted on the island, and smoking is limited to areas approved by the resident ranger.

Accommodation

You will be staying in the Comalco Lodge. The lodge is shared accommodation and has a fully equipped kitchen, living room and bunk rooms. There is hot water, electricity and cellphone coverage (Telecom).

As there is a limited supply of water and off-grid power, encourage children to shower in the morning of the trip and to have a shower when they get home, rather than at Maud Island.

Please supply your own food and drinks for snacks, lunches, dinner and breakfast during your stay. See below.



Food & Packaging

Shared dinner - for evening dinner bring food that requires simple preparation or reheating rather than cooking from scratch as there is not a lot of time for food preparation due to a full programme and lots to see and do. Children could bring some home baking each which will be used for morning and afternoon teas and those times when you need an energy boost!

Lunch - for Day 1 as well as some extras for lunch on Day 2 just in case the left-over pizza etc doesn't stretch that far. Don't forget fluids.

Breakfast – be fully self-contained ie bring own raw materials as children will be making their own.

Try to keep packaging to a minimum as all rubbish will be taken back with you. Encourage the children to rise to the challenge of being environmentally friendly by minimizing the packaging in their lunch box.

What to bring

Weather on the island can be extreme at times, and whilst we try to plan activities around the weather conditions, please come prepared for all weather and bring warm clothes, wet weather gear and sun protection.

Suggested gear list:

- Sleeping bag and pillowcase
- Torch or headlamp with spare batteries
- Suitable clothing and sturdy shoes/boots for outdoor activities
- Suitable clothing for indoors, and night walks
- Wet weather gear
- Personal hygiene supplies/toiletries
- Drink bottle/flask/lunchbox
- Sun hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent
- Personal medication
- Camera

Additional information

It is our aim to have you depart Maud Island via your arranged water transport to Havelock at around 11:00am the following day (eta Havelock of 11:45am).

The island number to use for emergency contact is 03 576 5233.

Pre- and post-trip activities with students are recommended. This is a great way to reinforce what the children have learned and facilitate student-led inquiry type learning.

The following are some links to factsheets on the DOC website for some of the species the children may encounter on their trip to Maud/Te Paateka. Many of these pages contain links to other sources of information regarding these species:

Kereru: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/nz-pigeon-kereru/>

Falcon: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/nz-falcon-karearea/>

Powelliphanta Snail: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/invertebrates/powelliphanta-snails/>

Weta: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/invertebrates/weta/>

Gecko: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/reptiles-and-frogs/lizards/geckos/>

Skinks: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/reptiles-and-frogs/lizards/cyclodina-skink/>

Native Frogs: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/reptiles-and-frogs/frogs-pepeketua/>

Blue penguin: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/penguins/little-penguin-korora/>

Morepork/Ruru: <http://doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/morepork-ruru/>