

Mauao Operational Report June 2017

6 June 2017

Objective ID No:
A7946191



[Report Guidelines](#)
[Exclusion of the Public Reasons](#)

Executive summary

Recommendation	That the Nga Poutiriao o Mauao: (a) receives the operational report for June 2017 (b) supports the operational teams recommendation to use aerial spraying as an appropriate pest plant control tactic to achieve the control required to enable the revegetation objective in the affected area.
Summary of issue	This report identifies the key operational issues and achievements over the reporting period April 2017- June 2017. It identifies up and coming work of interest to the Board including ongoing visitor records and an up to date events calendar for Mauao, Main beach and Pilot Bay Reserves Recommendation b and discussion item 1 recommends the use of aerial spraying as a targeted weed control tactic to deal with a large weed infestation where conventional methods are limited due to difficult terrain and access.

Discussion

1. Aerial agrichemical application methodology

The operational team have been looking into the options available to deal with a significant Japanese Honey Suckle infestation on Mauao. (See the following image showing the affected area) The infestation is having a significant smothering effect on the canopy in this particular area preventing the desired natural re-vegetation process. This is the worst weed infestation area on Mauao at present making it a priority for control.



Steep difficult terrain, limited access for motorised sprayer unit and access for bulk water coupled with impenetrable vegetation steep slopes and loose rock and the sheer scale of the infestation mean conventional manual control options are very slow and difficult therefore will be very expensive in this environment. Current estimates to control this area are in excess of \$40,000 excluding the cost of herbicide. This is almost twice the \$25,000 annual budget for weed control on the whole of site.

With a targeted aerial application, the same area could be treated for a fraction of the cost estimated at \$5,000. Aerial Spraying with a helicopter is commonly used, as a very effective tool for weed control. With the use of low drift nozzles, targeted spot spraying and use of selective herbicides in the desired conditions this method is the most cost effective and targeted option to achieve the desired results in this case.

Tauranga City Council and its contractors are required to comply with the agrichemical policy and Regional Air Plan at all times for the safe use of agrichemicals. An aerial application would need to be undertaken in very particular conditions to ensure a good result and to minimise any potential spray drift and the best possible results.

The high profile nature of Mauao would likely mean this activity comes under public scrutiny and therefore an advanced communication plan will be required to ensure the public are well informed of this activity, and have the opportunity to avoid the reserve on the day of application. The operational team does not envisage a need to close the reserve or walkway alignment as the targeted area is well away from the public walkways and accessible open areas. The intention is to advertise and ensure good signage is in place in advance of the work taking place.

2. Update on Damage from recent Cyclones Debbie and Cook

The recent cyclones Debbie and Cook caused significant damage on Mauao with particularly high rainfall, strong winds and large swells. Damage sustained included many new slips around the base track and pasture areas, tree fall, damage to track surfaces, fencing and a small retaining structure adjacent to the Mount Beachside Holiday Park.

Some known Penguin burrows were buried in the erosion that took place and while some archaeological features were effected no significant damage was recorded to specific features and no artefacts or bones were found as a result of this recent activity.

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Pilot bay Large Slip

A new large slip on the Pilot Bay side of the base track undermined a significant part of the existing track alignment preventing safe access and leading to a sustained track closure. Tonkin and Taylor Ltd have been engaged to investigate the options available to reinstate base track loop. The difficult nature of the terrain and the damage sustained mean specialist geotechnical engineering advice is required to ensure a suitable long-term solution.

Due to the likely timeframe to solve the issues longer term a temporary re-connection of the base track is planned as Stage 1 to reconnect the loop for walkers while the longer-term fix is being developed. This involves the installation of some new raised timber box steps and track through the pasture area above the slip site. This work requires an authority from HNZ and approval from Tangata Whenua and The Mauao Trust as the owners.

Stage 2 Will be involve the detailed design of the most suitable solution, planning , consultation, consent applications and application for a Heritage Authority if required, procurement and delivery of the project works.

3. Pest control feasibility study

An update of the Pest Control issues and options including the potential for a pest exclusion fence will be provided at the next Nga Poutiriao o Mauao meeting August 2017. This feedback has been delayed due to key staff priorities being redirected to deal with the recent cyclone response and clean up.

4. Visitor numbers

For the reporting period 1 June 2016 – 29 May 2017 (See the attached report Attachment B for specific details)

Mauao Base Track	312,410
Mauao Summit (Calibrated)	864,960

5. The following table represents the calendar of events planned for the coming period on Mauao, Mount main beach and Pilot Bay Reserves

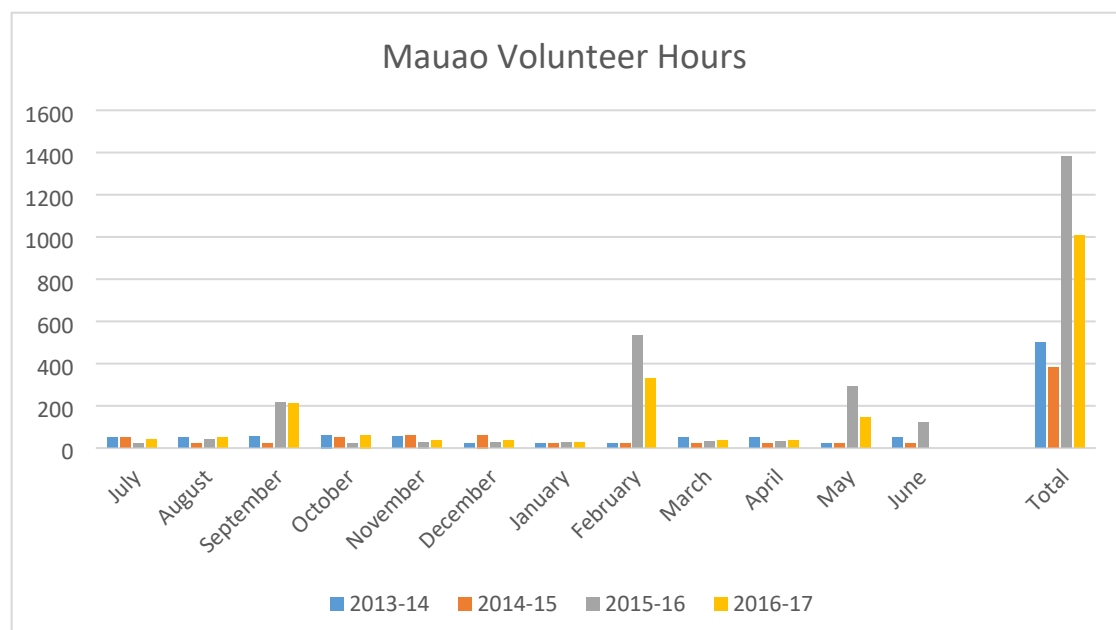
Start Date:	Start Time:	End Date:	End Time:	Location:	Event:
04/06/17	03:00 AM	04/06/17	01:00 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Mount Joggers And Walkers Half Marathon 2017
26/08/17	08:00 AM	26/08/17	12:30 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Hawaiian Airlines Mount Maunganui Half Marathon
09/09/17	09:00 AM	09/09/17	01:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	SLSNZ - BOP Winter Series Round 1
14/10/17	08:00 AM	15/10/17	04:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Mauao 1 - Beach Volleyball
18/11/17	08:00 AM	19/11/17	06:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Mauao 2 Beach Volleyball

19/11/17	06:00 AM	19/11/17	02:00 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Sovereign TRI Series - TINMAN - Mt Maunganui 2017
30/11/17	08:00 AM	02/12/17	05:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	International Surf Rescue Challenge
09/12/17	08:00 AM	10/12/17	06:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Grand Slam Beach Volleyball
14/12/17	06:00 PM	14/12/17	07:30 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Ocean Swim Series 2016/17 (#1)
16/12/17	10:00 AM	16/12/17	02:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Mount Monster 2017
18/12/17	03:00 PM	18/12/17	04:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Jiji & Lamar Wedding
21/12/17	06:00 PM	21/12/17	07:30 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Ocean Swim Series 2016/17 (#2)
27/12/17	07:30 AM	27/12/17	11:00 AM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Eves Surfbreaker Triathlon 2017
27/12/17	12:00 AM	28/12/17	12:00 AM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	NZ Commonwealth Games Qualification Tournament 1 - BEACH VOLLEYBALL
28/12/17	06:00 PM	28/12/17	07:30 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Ocean Swim Series 2016/17 (#3)
04/01/18	06:00 PM	04/01/18	07:30 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Ocean Swim Series 2016/17 (#4)
06/01/18	12:00 AM	07/01/18	12:00 AM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Mt Maunganui Beach Volleyball Open
11/01/18	06:00 PM	11/01/18	07:30 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Ocean Swim Series 2016/17 (#5)
13/01/18	02:00 PM	13/01/18	03:00 PM	Mauao - Tangaroa Beach/Sandy Beach	Seidel & Eichblatt Wedding
13/01/18	09:30 AM	13/01/18	06:30 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	NZ Beach Hockey Championships 2018
14/01/18	08:00 AM	14/01/18	11:00 AM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Round the Mount Swim 2018
18/01/18	06:00 PM	18/01/18	07:30 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Ocean Swim Series 2016/17 (#6)
20/01/18	12:00 AM	21/01/18	12:00 AM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Commonwealth Games Qualification Tournament 2 - Beach Volleyball
23/01/18	12:00 AM	24/01/18	12:00 AM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	NZ Age Group Beach Volleyball Champs

25/01/18	06:00 PM	25/01/18	07:30 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Ocean Swim Series 2016/17 (#7)
27/01/18	08:00 AM	28/01/18	05:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Eastern Regional Surf Life Saving Championships - 2018
03/02/18	12:00 AM	04/02/18	12:00 AM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	NZ Secondary Schools Beach Volleyball Champs
10/02/18	12:00 AM	11/02/18	12:00 AM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	NZ National Champs - Beach Volleyball
18/02/18	08:30 AM	22/04/18	12:00 PM	Mauao	Run For Life (PINC & STEEL Cancer Rehab Trust) 2018
25/02/18	08:30 AM	25/02/18	10:30 AM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Generation Homes Women's Triathlon 2018
11/03/18	07:30 AM	11/03/18	12:00 PM	Pilot Bay Reserve	Marra Sprint Triathlon 2018
17/03/18	07:30 AM	17/03/18	12:00 PM	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Foundation Clinic Half Marathon 2018

6. Volunteer hours

Volunteer hours on Mauao are made up by a number of ongoing support groups and one off community events. The nature of the support includes the maintenance of animal pest control devices, revegetation planting, rubbish removal. The 2016/2017 peaks are September revegetation work, a February clean up event and the May/June planting support.



7. Total Fire Ban – lifted

The total Fire Ban for Mauao and the wider Mount Maunganui and Papamoa Coastal Reserve area has been lifted due to the improved fire weather conditions and reduced risk. The signs have been removed from the key reserve entry points until they are required again next season.

8. Recent Successes

Trees for survival plantings

The 2017 planting season has begun on Mauao with Omanu and Papamoa Primary schools successfully planting approximately 1000 plants in conjunction with the Trees for Survival Programme. Contractors have also completed planting the Pilot Bay embankment with approximately 1500 plants above and below the Road to the Pilot Bay Wharf Area.

Storm damage repairs

Other than the large slip in the Pilot Bay area, all other damage to the base track have been undertaken successfully and to a high standard.

Rabbit control

Good progress has been made on the Mauao rabbit control with an estimated 85% reduction in the estimated total population of 405 rabbits in January 2017 excluding any new breeding. Smaller neighbouring safelight populations on Moturiki, Hopukioire, Tatua Reserve, Soper Reserve and Blake Park have also been targeted in recent months.

9. Planned work for the coming period

Routine track, sign and structure maintenance, ongoing weed control and animal pest control activities will continue this period. In addition to these items the following works in particular are scheduled:

Completion of the 2017 planting programme

With support from contractors, staff, Iwi, Western Bay Wildlife trust, Trees for Survival, Trust Power, The Skin Centre, and the community volunteers, approximately 10,000 plants will be planted on Mauao this year across a number of locations.

Replacement Directional Signage

Replacement signs will be installed in the coming period. The new signs will include direction, time, and distance information as well as key safety messages. This will improve orientation and way finding for visitors to understand where they are going and what to expect at each track junction.

Independent rabbit monitoring

Another round of independent rabbit monitoring is scheduled for the first week of June 2017. This monitoring is vital assessment of how existing methods are working in relation to achieving the control objective and it provides an important opportunity to refocus resources and the timing of efforts to ensure the best possible results with the resources available.

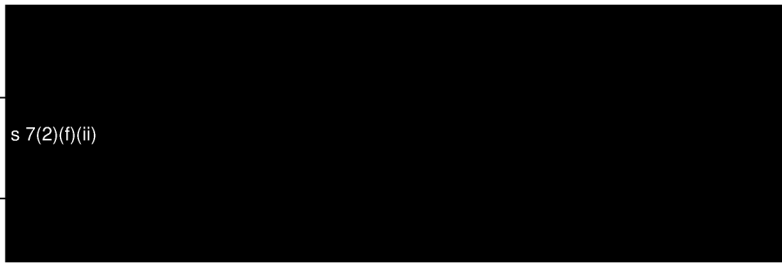
Heritage Authority Applications

Applications have been drafted for the Mauao Base track temporary alignment and also for a 10 year approval of routine and ongoing maintenance work. Both applications need approval from the Mauao Trust as the landowner and from the Tangata Whenua. These matters will be presented to the Mauao trust for consideration at a special meeting planned for the coming period.

Appendices

No.	Title
A	Mauao Counter Track Counter report for July 2016- May 2017 Objective ID:A7939712

Signatories

Authors	 s 7(2)(f)(ii)	
Authorisers		

Enterprise approach and collaboration

Name	Title / Department	Response
Warren Aitken	Team Leader Parks and Environment	
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