

## 10.1 Operational Report.

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### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report identifies the key operational issues and achievements over the reporting period, September – December 2021. It identifies up and coming work of interest to Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao, including ongoing visitor records and an up-to-date events calendar for Mauao.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao:

- (a) Receives the Operational Report for December 2021.
- (b) Agrees on either Option 1 or Option 2 for the decision required under bullet point #22.

### DISCUSSION

#### Visitor numbers

2. Total visitor numbers:

| Year     | Summit Visits (Calibrated) | Te Ara Tutanga (Base track) | Total visits |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 2016     | 876,297                    | 419,588                     | 1,295,885    |
| 2017     | 903,604                    | 339,031                     | 1,242,635    |
| 2018     | 702,665                    | 489,667                     | 1,192,332    |
| 2019     | 796,671                    | 544,912                     | 1,341,583    |
| 2020     | 589,650.5                  | 506,097                     | 1,095,747.5  |
| 2021 YTD | 510,065                    | 446,976                     | 957,041      |

Table 1: Total year-to-date visitor numbers

#### Mauao Summit Visits (Calibrated)

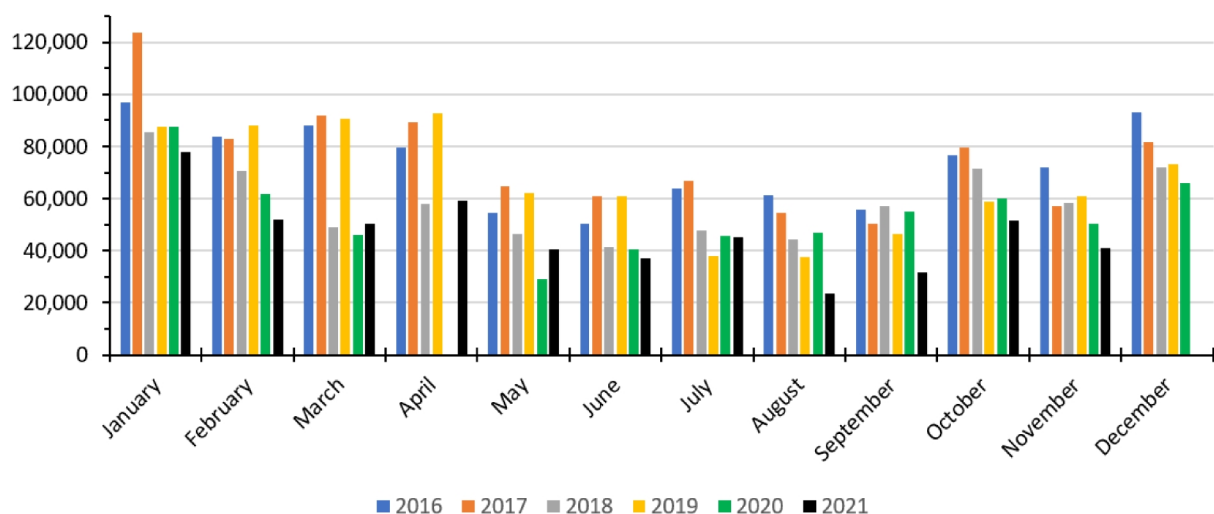


Figure 1: Base track numbers over this year, compared to previous years.

## Te Ara Tūtanga (Base Track) Visits

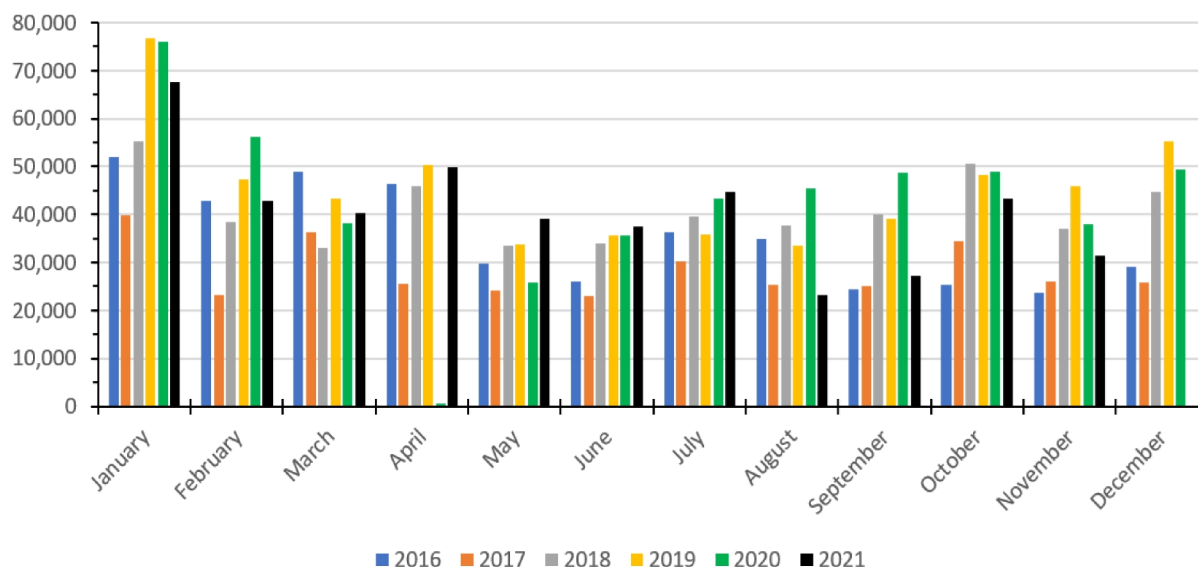


Figure 2: Calibrated summit numbers over this year, compared to previous years.

3. Please refer to the appendix for the full walkways report.

### Volunteer support

4. Volunteer support on Mauao consisted largely of two care groups who service a portion of the bait lines on Mauao. This includes volunteers from Forest and Bird as well as the new volunteers through 'Western Bay Wildlife Trust' (WBWT). This extra support from WBWT is allowing the pest control activities on Mauao to move from monthly to fortnightly. A thank you to s 7(2)(a) - Privacy from 'Bay Conservation Alliance' for her time to facilitate this change in volunteer support.

### Events

5. Planned events at and around Mauao for the period from December 2021 to June 2022.

| Description                                                              | Start Date | Start Time | End Date | End Time | Anchor Venue                       | Notes                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| King and Queen of the Mount 2021                                         | 26/12/21   | 10:30 AM   | 26/12/21 | 12:30 PM | Mt Maunganui Main Beach - East     | Summit                                                                                               |
| s 7(2)(a) sunrise wedding ceremony                                       | 29/12/21   | 05:30 AM   | 29/12/21 | 06:30 AM | Mauao - Top of the Stone Steps     | Up the stone steps, through the gate and just to the right hand side off the main walking track      |
| Mount Festival of Multisport                                             | 22/01/22   | 06:00 AM   | 22/01/22 | 05:00 PM | Pilot Bay Reserve                  | Base track                                                                                           |
| Marra Sprint Triathlon 2022                                              | 12/03/22   | 06:00 AM   | 13/03/22 | 01:00 PM | Pilot Bay Reserve                  | Base track                                                                                           |
| Superhero Walk for Waipuna Hospice 2022                                  | 19/03/22   | 09:00 AM   | 19/03/22 | 12:30 PM | Coronation Park                    | Base track                                                                                           |
| Foundation Clinic Mauao Half Marathon 2022                               | 20/03/22   | 07:30 AM   | 20/03/22 | 12:00 PM | Mauao                              | Summit and base track                                                                                |
| The Mount Swim - 2022                                                    | 02/04/22   | 08:00 AM   | 02/04/22 | 05:00 PM | Mt Maunganui Main Beach - Moturiki | Base track<br>PP date 7 May 2022                                                                     |
| Triathlon Tauranga - PP                                                  | 03/04/22   | 06:00 AM   | 03/04/22 | 02:00 PM | Pilot Bay Reserve                  | Tentative COVID postponement date                                                                    |
| Mount Maunganui Half Marathon 2021 (postponed to this date due to COVID) | 30/04/22   | 08:00 AM   | 30/04/22 | 01:30 PM | Mt Maunganui Main Beach            | Original date 21/08/21, then postponed to 27/11/21 before being postponed to this date<br>Base track |
| Ultimate Athlete NZ                                                      | 20/05/22   | 09:00 AM   | 21/05/22 | 06:00 PM | Mt Maunganui Main Beach            | Base track<br>Moved from April to May 2022                                                           |
| Mount Runners and Walkers Half Marathon 2022                             | 05/06/22   | 08:00 AM   | 05/06/22 | 12:00 PM | Mt Maunganui Main Beach            | Base track                                                                                           |

### Recent success

6. Due to the effects of COVID-19, contractors were engaged to finish this year's plantings at both Waipatukakahu and the new planting area. This brought the total number of plants for the 2021 planting year to approximately 13,000 native tree's and grasses.
7. The native grasses at Waipatukakahu have had mulch spread around them to help survive the hot summer. Furthermore, the stumps from the previous oak trees have now been removed.
8. Rabbit burrow fumigation has been set to a 4-6-week schedule to achieve more consistently.

9. The annual archaeological monitoring has been completed and passed onto Heritage NZ for their record – please see appendix for the full report.
10. Two night-shooting operations, consisting of two nights each, have been completed since September. The first operation saw 14/34 rabbits controlled. The second operation saw 11/24 rabbits controlled.
11. Rabbit shooting has not been as successful over the past two months due to the contractor not having thermal equipment available. This is being resolved via engaging another shooter who has this equipment currently available.
12. Rabbit browse was continuing to take place in the new planting area. Although the Plantskydd (rabbit deterrent) reduced this, the damage taking place on the young plants called for another approach. To protect these plants and help the damaged ones recover, biodegradable plant guards have been placed around the plants.
13. Please see the appendix for the Avalon Ltd rock stability report, which did not arrive in time for the previous hui.
14. The Oruahine track has been successfully renewed. This has extended the life of this track and improved the quality. This involved adding edging to the outer part of the track, which will improve safety by defining the track edge but also help to stop aggregate from the track entering the ngahere (forest). The larger set of stairs was also widened and a handrail added for safety – please see appendix for before and after photos.
15. Two days of abseiling the Oruahine and Waikorire bluffs resulted in the control of approximately 80 'Boneseed' plants. Boneseed is a highly invasive species, which can produce up to 50,000 seeds every year and each seed can remain dormant for up to 10 years.
16. Two small retaining walls at the summit have been installed and the eroded cavities that formed from people going off track to the 'selfie' spot has been backfilled. A temporary fence has been erected to keep the public off this area and a permanent handrail/barrier will be installed mid-December.
17. A new pest control line has been cut on the southern face of Mauao. Once operational, this will create closer spacings between devices, which will result in better control.
18. The temporary rescue number system that was approved at the last Nga Poutiriao o Mauao has successfully been installed.
19. s 7(2)(a) - Privacy and s 6 - Maintenance visited the schools that are involved in the People Plants and Schools (PIPS) programme. The students had successfully germinated the seeds they collected from Mauao and grown them to a size large enough to repot. It was great to see the passion and caring nature the children showed towards their tree's. They seemed very excited at the thought of creating a forest on Mauao that will become a taonga for years to come.

### Planned work for the upcoming period

20. A follow up arial Pampas operation is planned for December. Six months ago, the initial operation took place and was very successful. Now that Pampas is in 'active growth', a follow up operation is recommended to ensure the target plants are completely dead.
21. s 7(2)(a) - Privacy from Ngai Tukairangi has been engaged to undertake weekly monitoring for Myrtle Rust over the summer period. This work is important as last year the Bay of Plenty region saw higher numbers of sightings and tree's which in previous years showed resistance, became infected.

22. There are currently two usable power poles on the Mauao Historic Reserve, these two poles take power to the light pole at the 'active jetty' (next to the start of the track at Pilot Bay).

This light pole at the jetty has recently been replaced with a new solar powered light pole. When this old light pole was replaced, the powerlines which connected it to the power pole (1) on the Mauao Historic Reserve was also removed. This power pole (1) is now disconnected and free-standing, without purpose.

Moving forward, there are two possible options with regards to the remaining electrical infrastructure on Mauao.

#### **Option One**

The free-standing power pole (1) would be removed (cut at ground level to avoid disturbance) but the power connection at the base would be left as is. This would leave one existing power pole (2) at the start of the reserve but would allow easy reconnection of power if there is a desire to do so in the future.

#### **Option Two**

If power is not desired in this location, the free-standing power pole (1) would be removed. Furthermore, the other power pole (2), which is fed by the road, could also be removed. With power pole (2) removed, the powerlines that arch from the road can also be removed.

With either option, the below ground cable that connects both power poles will be left in-situ to avoid ground disturbance.

The powerlines that arch from the road and span across the area that the new Pou, will be in at Pilot Bay. Therefore, it is important to consider the new interpretation designs in this decision – please see the appendix for a visual representation.

23. Waipatukakahu is progressing well and the next operational step is to remove the small sections of fencing either side of the entrance (these will be cut at ground level to avoid soil disturbance). Once this is removed, it will be time to create the rock/boulder edge at the front of the site. Originally it was thought rocks could be sourced from around Mauao, but this may be more invasive on the environment/landscape than is wanted. Therefore, it would be preferred to bring in this material from offsite. This is likely to come from the Polar Lane quarry at Papamoa hills, which is where the aggregate for tracks is sourced.

#### **Ongoing maintenance**

24. Ongoing maintenance continues on the following aspects of the reserve:
- pest plant and animal control;
  - stock and pasture management;
  - walkway maintenance;
  - sign and structure maintenance;
  - Motu Kauri track maintenance; and
  - geotechnical rock stability monitoring and scaling to maintain visitor safety.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Mauao Track Counter Data August 2021 to November 2021 - A13091312**
2. **Mauao annual Archaeological Monitoring\_Report 2021 - A13091313**
3. **August 2021 Mauao Rockfall + Monitoring Report - A13091315**
4. **Oruahine track renewal photos - A13091316**
5. **Mauao power-pole Visualisation - A13091317**