



Mauao Operational Report May 2016

Purpose

1. To inform Nga Poutiriao o Mauao (Mauao Joint Administration Board) of operational matters from February 2016 to the end of May 2016 and seek guidance from the board on operational matters for the forthcoming period.

Executive Summary

2. This report identifies the key operational issues and achievements over the reporting period February – May 2016.
3. The report highlights up and coming operational work of interest to the Board, ongoing visitor counter records and an up to date events calendar for the Mauao, Main Beach and Pilot Bay areas.

Recommendation/s

- (a) That Nga Poutiriao o Mauao receive the operational report for May 2016.

Discussion

4. **Update on the January 13 2016 Fire site and claim to the National Rural Fire Authority**

The total expenses incurred by council for the January 13 2016 Mauao Fire event excluding staff time was \$77,029.00 excluding GST.

A total of \$66,938.99 excluding GST has been refunded from the National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA) following the assessment of the claim. The refunded amount met the NRFA criteria for suppression costs. The remaining \$10,090.01 did not meet the suppression criteria and therefore was not funded by the NRFA.

The burn area will be planted in the first week of June to enable the quick establishment and stabilisation of the area and to prevent the establishment of unwanted pest plants. Some of the native vegetation and in particular the harakeke is recovering well already.

5. **Changes to the existing Animal Pest Control Programme**

Following a November/December 2015 review of pest animal populations and control programmes in place, the following changes have been made to the animal pest control operations on Mauao.

Rabbit control

A shift to a more targeted and progressive approach for rabbit control has been adopted. Rabbit numbers will be intensely controlled in early autumn when the population contains the fewest young, and again pre –spring before widespread

breeding occurs. This control will continue to include a range of methods; night shooting, gassing burrows (active burrows will not be tolerated) and patch Pindone poisoning in hard to shoot areas. These intensive control periods will be followed with independent night count monitoring to assess the effectiveness of control and advise the next course of action for the following phase of the programme.

The intention is to achieve control which by definition is a greater than 80 percent reduction in the total population in as short a period as possible.

Rodent baiting

Existing bait stations have been recording close to 100% bait take over the past few years. During this time the use of Ditrac toxin has been used and the recommendation received is to pulse another Brodifacoum in the months of September, February and May to align with the critical breeding periods for seabird arrivals and increased rodent feeding pre winter. This change will make the existing control operation more effective and it will be implemented from the 1st of July 2016

The parks asset coordinator - Mauao is working with Forest and Bird group to establish a new bait line through the established bush area to target rodents not currently affected by the existing bait lines.

Rodent Bait stations will be replaced over time with larger stations that hold four or more baits as they enable a reduced servicing regime and are therefore more effective use of volunteer and contractor's time.

Predator control

A new predator control line is to be established in June containing 4 live capture cat traps and 30 DOC 200 mustelid traps to manage the perimeter of the reserve. This line will enable better protection of the reserve perimeter and the results over time will demonstrate the trends of new predator arrivals to the reserve from the greater mount area. Coupled with the better management of rabbit numbers and resulting reduction of easy prey this is a critical step to help reduce prey shifting of predator species from rabbit to native bird populations on Mauao.

6. Event Calendar

See the below calendar of events planned to the end of August 2016

07/05/16	12:00 a.m.	07/05/16	12:00 a.m.	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	2016 BOP IRB Long Haul (Inshore Rescue Boat Race)	s 7(2)(a) - Privacy	Event (EVE)
06/06/16	05:30 a.m.	11/06/16	05:00 p.m.	Mauao	Matariki Hikoi		Information only (FYI)
21/08/16	09:00 a.m.	21/08/16	12:00 p.m.	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	SLSNZ - BOP Winter Series Round 1	Surf Life Saving New Zealand	Sport - Event (SPEVE)
27/08/16	08:00 a.m.	27/08/16	12:30 p.m.	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Hawaiian Airlines Mount Maunganui Half Marathon	First Tier Sports Productions	Sport - Event (SPEVE)

7. Visitor numbers

The new counters on Mauao are working well and are starting to show some clear trends in the visitor use at this site. See the attached counter reports at attachment A for more details.

Note the current figures below demonstrating more visits to the summit than around the base track so far this year

It should be noted that the visitation to the summit has been particularly high during February and March due to the Everest challenge. This event required participants to climb to the summit of Mauao (232m) 38 times in 50 days (the equivalent distance in climbing Everest's 8848m)

Total visitor numbers for the reporting period 1 Jan 2016 – 17 – May 2016 are:

Base track - 208,577

Total number of visitors to the summit - 379,108

01/01/2016 - 17/05/2016	Mauao 4wd Track	Mauao Base Track	Oruahine Track	Waikorire Track
Total	93,652	208,577	141,831	314,156
Peak Day	Mon 4 Jan 2016 (1,641)	Wed 2 Mar 2016 (4,074)	Sun 17 Jan 2016 (3,422)	Mon 4 Jan 2016 (4,576)
Minimum Day	Thu 5 May 2016 (0)	Thu 14 Jan 2016 (6)	Thu 14 Jan 2016 (1)	Mon 18 Jan 2016 (5)
Max Day of the Week	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Monday
Hourly Average	28	63	43	96
Daily Average	684	1,522	1,035	2,293
Monthly Average	20,807	46,340	31,511	69,797

8. Geotechnical Stability monitoring and mitigation of rock fall hazards

On the 21st of April a minor rock fall event was witnessed by a group of walkers on the Oruahine track who reported it the following day. The event was localised and over quickly so no track closure was put in place.

Because the operational team takes rock fall and the potential consequences seriously Avalon industrial Services Ltd were contacted immediately to investigate the area as soon as possible to assess the risks and identify the likely point of origin.

Avalon undertook an initial site survey with the use of a UAV and has recommended a light scaling programme on the slopes of this area to reduce the ongoing risks. This scaling involves manually plucking as many marginally stable rocks as possible and proactively throwing them down to the lower slopes to between the Oruahine and Base tracks.

This area is the priority for rock fall mitigation due to the likelihood and potential consequences of injury given the amount of loose material immediately above the track alignment. This scaling programme will begin in July 2016 and will become

part of the ongoing monitoring and mitigation on Mauao. The Oruahine and Base tracks will need to be closed to ensure public safety while this work is underway

9. Heritage

At meeting 10 on the 6th of October 2015, s 7(2)(a) - Privacy Wildlands Consultants, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the updated Conservation Plan (CP) for Mauao Historic Reserve. During this meeting concerns were raised regarding the archaeological content of the report.

Following this meeting the operational team met with Heritage New Zealand to understand the concerns and establish a way forward. The decision was made to engage Insitu Heritage Ltd to develop a Heritage implementation plan as a supporting document to the CP to ensure the best possible protection of heritage features on Mauao.

This document will provide more specific details around the many different aspects of ongoing operational maintenance activities on Mauao to ensure the heritage values are protected and that best practice management is in place..

Following the completion of this work the operational team will be applying for a 10 year authority with Heritage New Zealand (HNZ) to cover all of the routine operational and maintenance activities within the Mauao Historic Reserve. This application will require consultation with Nga Poutiriao o Mauao.

10. Significant tree removals

Significant tree removal priorities have been identified with support from the city arborist. Advice and support has been received from HNZ to ensure the best possible protection of significant Archaeology on site. This work will require an Authority from HNZ and this work will not be undertaken until this is in place. Pending the timing of the authority this work will be planned for delivery during the quiet winter months as some short term track closures will be required.



The above image shows the locations of the significant tree removal priorities. The trees include large Oldman Pine, Macrocarpa, Eucalypts, and an Elm. All of the trees removals identified are due for removal due to their condition, potential for failure and damage to archaeology and walking tracks, and for public safety reasons. The removals are also consistent with the Conservation Management Plan for Mauao Historic Reserve 2015.

11. **Update on Seal signage**

DOC and TCC are currently working together to develop some generic seal signage of a temporary nature to be used for Mauao and the wider Bay of Plenty Region. The signage will be used to inform the public and visitors of seal behaviours and presence during the problem seal season middle of May to middle of October each year. This is the time of year that pups are weaned from their mothers and it is these young adventurous seals learning to fend for themselves that people are not used to seeing or experiencing.

The temporary signs will be designed to use the same footing foundations installed for the recently developed Coastal Warning signs at each end of the base track. This eliminates the need to undertake any excavation and takes advantage of the work already undertaken. The signs will be easy to install and remove.

The parks asset coordinator Mauao is working with DOC to ensure a good result is achieved and a process is in place for the installation and removal of the signs. In the event of a large swell or storm surge the warning signs for public safety will take precedence over the seal signage.

12. **Track Closure / Media Notifications and Emergency Event Communication Protocol**

The operational team met with the chair of the board and agreed that any media releases and notification of track closures or emergency events on Mauao will be sent directly to the chairperson and deputy chair of the Nga Pouiriao o Mauao Board, the chair and deputy chairperson of the Mauao Trust, the Takawaenga unit as

well as any necessary public notification to ensure that all key parties are we informed.

13. Planting Programme Planning

Planting is underway for the May/June 2016 planting programme. Volunteer efforts this year include:

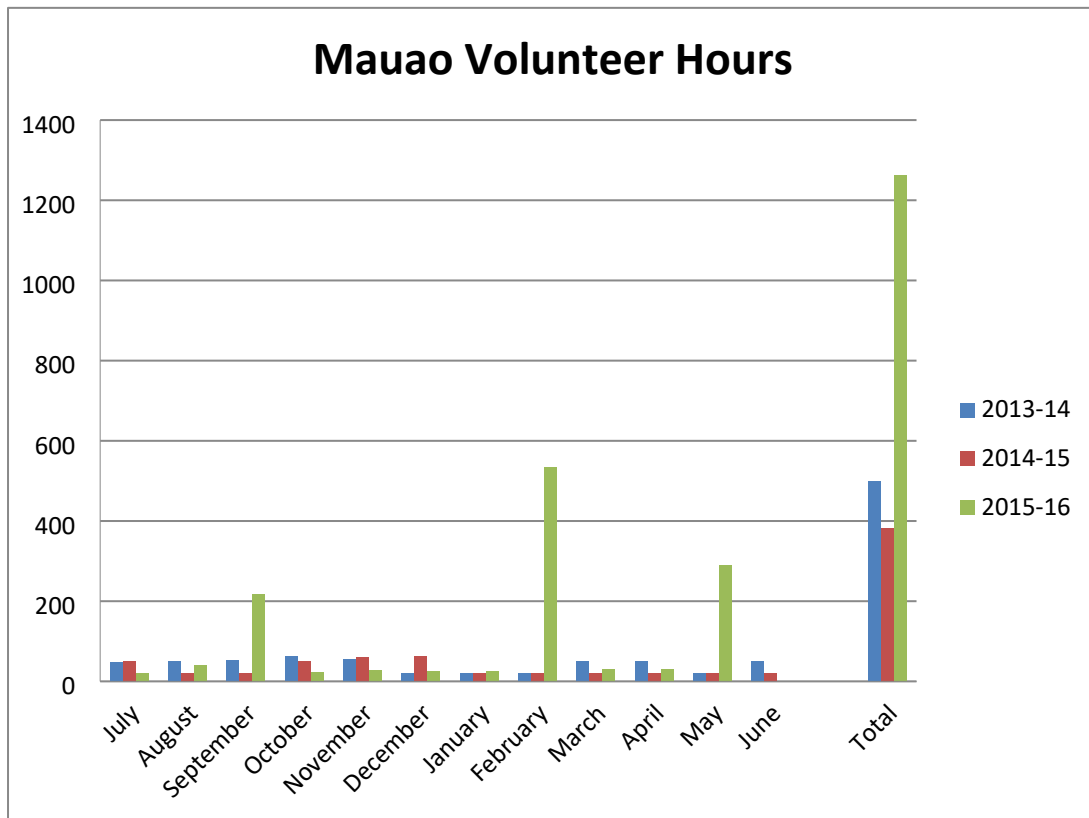
- Mount and Maungatapu Primary schools in conjunction with the Trees for Survival programme, approximately 350 plants, 6 May 2016.
- Trust Power, approximately 4000 plants 31 May 2016.
- Contracted replanting of January 13th Fire area is planned for the first week of June.
- Skin Centre, 200 Pohutukawa 4th of June 2016.
- Memorial Pohutukawa plantings with s 7(2)(a) - Privacy and family early June 2016.

14. Re-naming of the Mauao Area Wildlife Trust (MAWT)

The MAWT has recently re-named to the Western Bay Wildlife Trust (WBWT). WBWT will continue to be involved on Mauao with pest control and wildlife support and will continue to work in partnership with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and TCC.

15. 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 rodent lines, tree planting, and rubbish removal clean-ups. The 2016 peaks are September planting events, a February clean up event and the May planting support.



16. **Routine Maintenance Undertaken this Period**

- plant and animal pest control
- four wheel drive track maintenance
- walkway maintenance – including resurfacing on the base track
- sign and structure maintenance ongoing

Attachments

No.	Title
A	<i>May 2016 Mauao Track Counter Report for Mauao Operational Report</i> <i>Objective ID: A7118357</i>

Signatories

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

Sign off Slip

Committee Report Approval

Name of Committee: Nga Poutiriao o Mauao			Report #:	Date of Meeting: 1 June 16	
Sign Off		Signature		Date	
* Report Writer(s) (Name(s)) – s 7(2)(f)(ii) Financial Implications (please circle) YES				17 May 2016	
*Checked by Team Leader – s 7(2)(f)(ii)				17 May 2016	
* Checked by Divisional Manager – s 7(2)(f)(ii)				17 May 2016	
* Checked by General Manager Financial Implications (please circle) YES NO					
* Checked by Finance (if significant General Manager to sign off)					
* Checked by General Manager: Strategy All reports except RMA					
* Checked by General Manager: Infrastructure Services Projects Updates (for City Delivery)					
Governance		Report Received		Date:	
Team Leader: Governance Services					
Corporate Solicitor					
Chief Executive					
Meeting Presentation Requirements		Name of presenter(s)		Time required	
* Who will be presenting at meeting? (Internal & External)					
* Have you notified interested parties of agenda item and date? (Internal & External)		Y / N			
* What equipment will you require e.g. data projector, white board etc Include equipment that is also available in the Chambers					
Amendments (Governance to complete)		Amended by:			
What changes have been made after the General Manager sign off?					
General Manager and report writer aware of content changes?					