

Mauao Operational Report August 2017

Nga Poutiriao o Mauao (Mauao Joint Administration Board)

1 August

Objective ID: A8015499



Executive summary

Recommendation	That Nga Poutiriao o Mauao (a) receives the operational report for August 2017.
Summary of issue	This report identifies the key operational issues and achievements over the reporting period June 2017- August 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.

Discussion

Visitor funding options for Mauao

- On 28th June 2017 Council directed that staff investigate options for an online facility for visitors to Mauao to contribute funds to the maintenance of Mauao.
- After seeking initial advice from ICT and the communication team, the following points were raised;
 - Seek feedback from the public as to their preferred method of donating.
 - Have an online donation option such as <https://www.gofundme.com/tour> Provide appropriate signage regarding the donation methodology for visitors.
 - Do not have an app, as short term visitors are unlikely to download an app and create an account to donate.
 - ICT have no capacity in the short term to implement a complicated outcome. If this is the preferred option, budget of [REDACTED] should be sought at the LTP to engage an ICT consultant to implement a solution.
- Staff advise against coin boxes due to the amount of thefts from public BBQ's when coins were used to pay for service. Payment to the contractor to collect coins, and fixes to damaged equipment cost more than the income.

Mauao Vehicle access and the Bay of Plenty Hang Glider Paraglider Association agreement

- Questions were raised in the June 6th 2017 Nga Poutiriao o Mauao meeting regarding the management of vehicle access within the reserve.
- Four-wheel drive access on Mauao is currently governed by a policy adopted by the Mauao Project Steering group in 2009. It defines the management of vehicle access within the reserve. The draft Mauao Historic Reserve Management plan will replace this policy in defining the appropriate use and management of vehicles on the reserve.
- Currently, access is limited to emergency response vehicles, and staff and contractor service vehicles for operational use. Vehicle access is not available for the public, events, filming or private use and private vehicles are not permitted to access the reserve.
- The only exception to this is a long standing (12 year) Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the Bay of Plenty Hang Gliding Paragliding Association (BOPHGPGA). The BOPHGPGA use one designated

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vehicle to transport hang gliders up or down Mauao, because the hang gliding equipment cannot be carried to the summit by hand. Paragliders are able to carry the paragliding equipment they require.

5. The BOPHGPGA has two designated drivers who must hold a current four wheel drive qualification meeting TCC's requirements, and they are inducted by TCC staff to safely access the summit via the four-wheel drive track. All vehicles are required to be warranted and registered excluding all-terrain vehicles and only four-wheel drive vehicles are permitted to drive above the reservoir site.
6. There have been no issues or incidents with this arrangement reported to date.
7. The current MOU is between Tauranga City Council and the BOPHGPGA. Staff are currently working with the association to update the existing agreement in light of the changes of ownership of Mauao since the original agreement, the development of the draft reserve management plan and new health and safety legislation.
8. The current Policy and the Reserve Management Plan allow requests to be made to staff for vehicle transportation on Mauao to enable Kaumatua, dignitaries, special guests and those not physically able to walk the summit a chance to get there. Such requests need to be made in advance to ensure staff have the ability to make the necessary arrangements. In all cases, guests are driven to the summit in a Tauranga City Council vehicle by Council staff. These opportunities are subject to the availability of staff in relation to core work commitments.

Update on Base track repairs following damage from cyclones Debbie and Cook damage

9. The operational team are working on the preferred options to arrive at a detailed design for the long-term repair of the base track alignment including options for procurement, project management and consideration of consent, consultation, heritage authority requirements and the indicative construction methods and limitations of the site. As the project develops further, a project timeline will be developed and communicated with key milestones.
10. The temporary re-connection for the short to medium term has been approved by Mauao Trust, Iwi and Heritage New Zealand. Contractors are scheduled to start on the 17th July 2017 and it is anticipated the work will be completed by early August. This work will involve the installation of 7 flights of timber box steps which will not be suitable for strollers or barrier free access however it is the only available alternative in the short term.

Myrtle Rust

11. The recent confirmation of Myrtle rust in New Zealand and locally in Te Puke has raised concerns from Iwi and community for Pohutukawa and other affected species in the Bay of Plenty and in particular on Mauao. The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation are working to try to contain it to protect New Zealand's Native species.
12. See the MPI website for the most up to date information:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust>
13. Essentially Myrtle Rust is a fungus that can have serious effects on Myrtle family including; Pohutukawa, Manuka, Rata, Ramrama and Swamp Maire as well as some exotic species. It is thought to have blown here from Australia.
14. Staff are working with MPI and DOC to arrange a proactive site inspection of Mauao with the city arborist team. At this stage there is nothing else that can be done other than keeping a keen eye out for the symptoms of the fungus and reporting any potential sighting's to MPI via the hotline 0800 80 99 66.
15. See the attached memo in **Appendix A** for further information.

Pest control update

16. Ongoing pest control activities on Mauao are working well. In particular, rabbit numbers are at the lowest densities they have been in years. Smaller neighbouring safelight populations on Moturiki, Hopukioro,

Tatua Reserve, Soper Reserve and Blake Park have also been targeted in recent months. This reduction in rabbits makes the ongoing predator control tactics more effective. No stoats, ferrets or weasels have been caught or reported in the last 24 months. Feral cat, possum and rat control tactics have been effective during this time also.

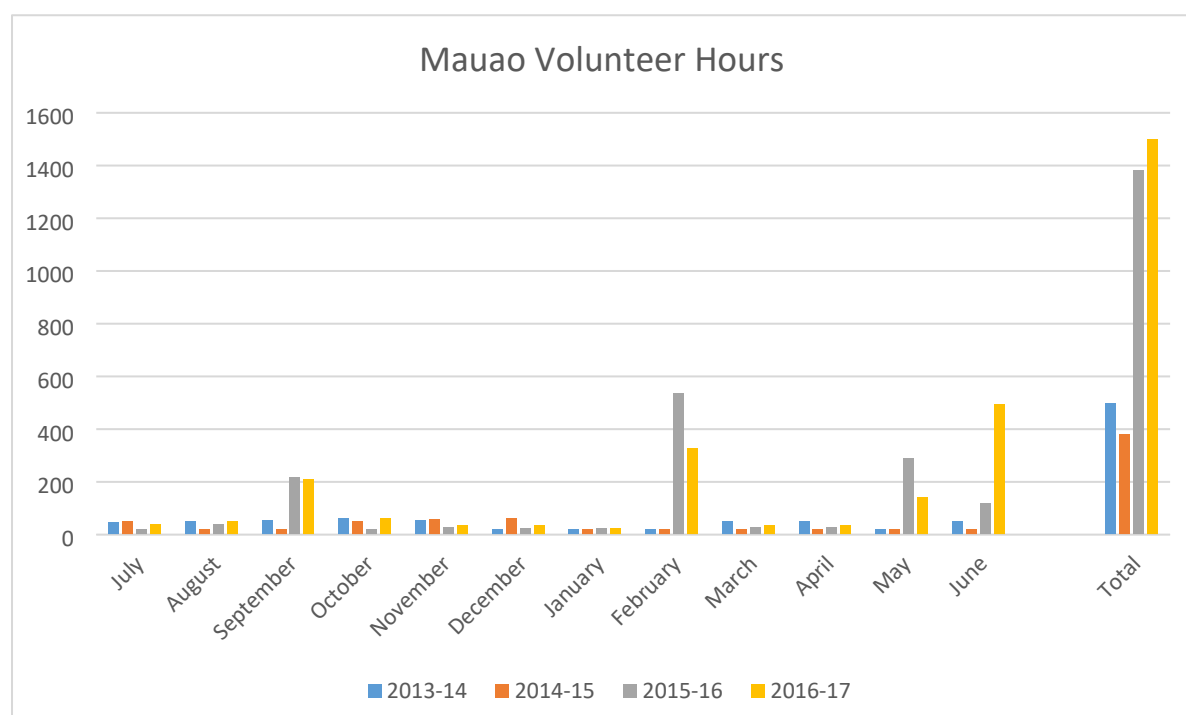
Visitor numbers

17. For the reporting period 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017 (See the attached report **Appendix B** for specific details).

Mauao Base Track	345,627
Mauao Summit (calibrated)	763,939

Volunteer support

18. 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, and rubbish removal. The 2016/2017 peaks shown on the graph are planting support and coastal clean ups. This year an increase of approximately 120 volunteer hours was achieved in support of planting activities.



Events

19. The following table represents the calendar of events planned for the coming period on Mauao, Mount Main Beach and Pilot Bay Reserves.

Date start	Start time	Date finish	Finish time	Location	Event Name	Organiser
19/08/17	08:30 a.m.	19/08/17	03:00 p.m.	Pilot Bay Reserve	Mauao Ocean Series #1 & #2	Hoe Aroha Whanau o Mauao
26/08/17	08:00 a.m.	26/08/17	01:30 p.m.	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Hawaiian Airlines Mount Maunganui Half Marathon 2017	First Tier Sports Productions
09/09/17	09:00 a.m.	09/09/17	01:00 p.m.	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	SLSNZ - BOP Winter Series Round 1	Surf Life Saving New Zealand
25/09/17	10:00 a.m.	25/09/17	12:30 p.m.	Mauao - Base Track	TGC Round the Mount Relay	Tauranga Girls College
01/10/17	08:00 a.m.	04/10/17	04:00 p.m.	Blake Park	NZ Teachers Games 2017	Sport Bay of Plenty
07/10/17	09:00 a.m.	07/10/17	06:00 p.m.	The Waterfront	Tauranga International Marathon 2017	Total Sport
14/10/17	08:00 a.m.	15/10/17	04:00 p.m.	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Mauao 1 - Beach Volleyball	Volleyball Bay of Plenty
17/10/17	05:30 p.m.	05/12/17	07:30 p.m.	Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Social Beach Volleyball 1	Volleyball Bay of Plenty

Heritage New Zealand Authority Application for ongoing maintenance activities submitted

20. Following specific consultation with the Mauao Trust the general authority application for ongoing maintenance activities was submitted to Heritage New Zealand this period. The application was received and confirmed as complete by HNZ and is being processed at present.

Recent Successes

21. Completion of the 2016/2017 planting programme:
Approximately 15,000 plants have been successfully planted on Mauao this season in a number of locations including above and below the base track circumference, Pilot Bay embankments and a large area on the ocean side above the base track. Volunteers planted the majority of plants, and this year, two planting events with Iwi members including the Mauao and Matapihi Kura took place during Matariki celebrations.
22. Direction sign replacement:
Directional signs have been replaced this period on Mauao to provide better way finding information for visitors to the reserve. The new signs are destination based, and include time and distance information to enable walkers to make informed decisions about the route they take and how long it might take. The signs have been made in a wooden routed style that matches the recently replaced reserve entrance signs.

Planned work for the coming period

23. A baseline monitoring survey of threatened plant species on Mauao including *Psilotum nudum*, *Pimelea tomentosa*, *Zoysia pauciflora*, and *Tetragonia tetragoniodes* is planned for the coming period to provide an update on the distribution, success and threats to known threatened plant species on the maunga. This work will provide an understanding of how well the plants are doing and what threats are affecting the plants' survival at present.

Routine Maintenance undertaken this Period

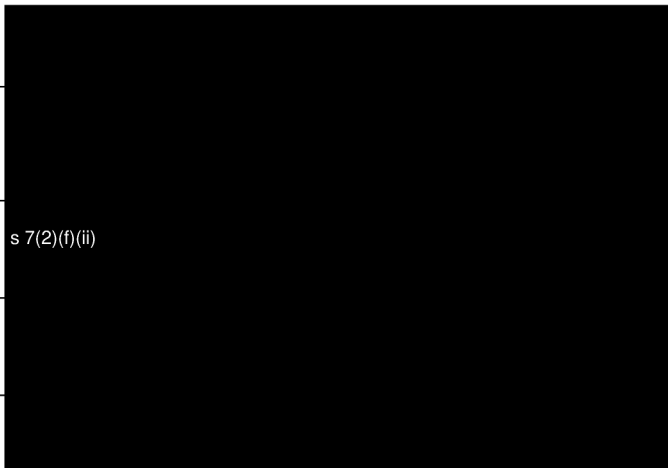
24. Routine maintenance undertaken this period includes:

- Plant and animal pest control with particular focus on Rabbit control
- Revegetation maintenance and weed control
- Stock and pasture management
- Walkway maintenance
- Sign and structure maintenance
- Four wheel drive track maintenance
- Geotechnical rock stability monitoring and scaling work

Appendices

No.	Title
A	Myrtle Rust Biosecurity Alert <i>Objective ID: A8015483</i>
B	Visitor Counter Report <i>Objective ID: A8015464</i>

Signatories

Author	 s 7(2)(f)(ii)	
Committee Lead Review		
Authorisers		