

0.0 Operational Report

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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report identifies the key operational issues and achievements over the reporting period, April 2022 – July 2022. 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 the Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao:

- (a) Receives the Operational Report for July 2022

DISCUSSION

Visitor Numbers

2. Total visitor numbers:

Table 1: Total year-to-date 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	589,650.50	506,097	1,095,747.50
2021	576,093	499,093	1,075,186
2022	318,811	297,147	615,958

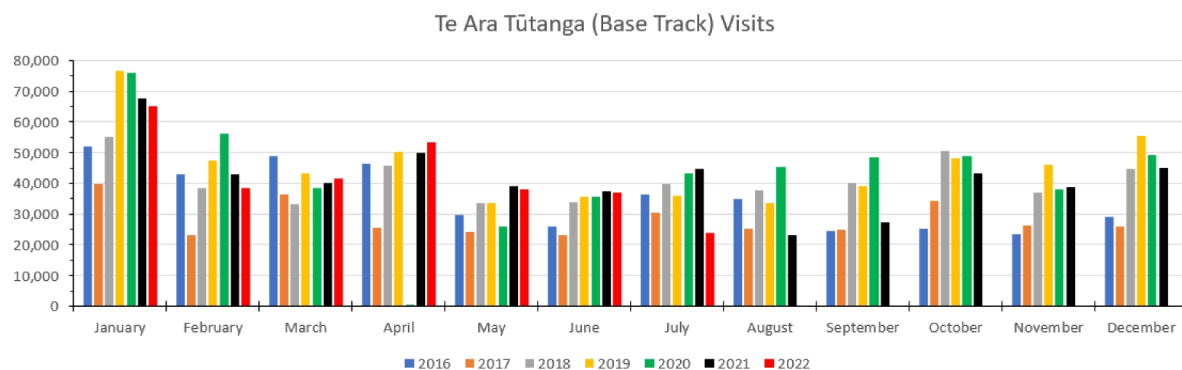


Figure 1: Base track numbers over this year, compared to previous years.

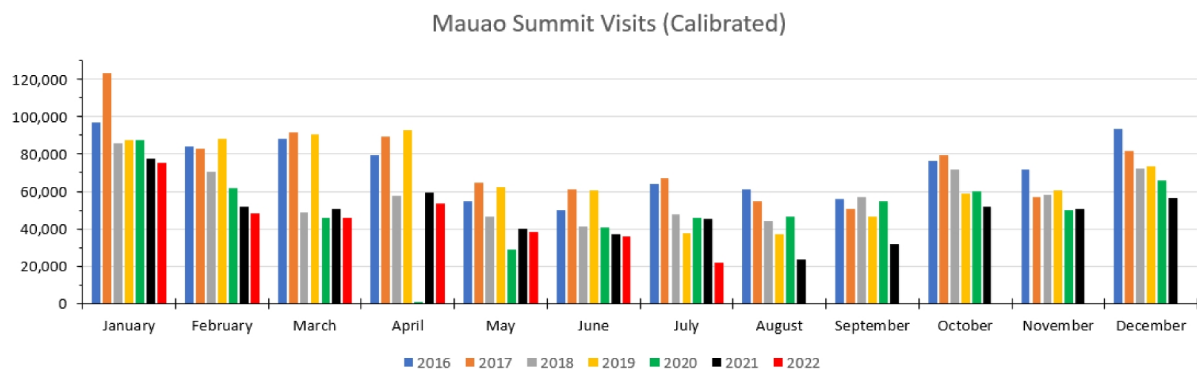


Figure 2: Calibrated summit numbers over this year, compared to previous years.

3. Please refer to the appendix for 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).

During this period, school groups belonging to PIPS (People Plants and Schools) and a team of volunteers from WSP Ltd, undertook volunteer planting on Mauao.

Events

5. Events at and around Mauao for the period from August 2022 to December 2022.

Description	Start Date	End Date	Estimated attendance	Notes
Mount Maunganui Half Marathon 2022	27/08/22	27/08/22	2200	Base track
Tauranga Marathon 2022	18/09/22	18/09/22	1150	Base track
Tauranga City to Surf Fun Run/Walk 2022	06/11/22	06/11/22	1500	Base track
GENX/ Marra Tinman Triathlon 2022	20/11/22	20/11/22	600	Base track
Mount Maunganui Half Marathon 2022 - postponement date	26/11/22	26/11/22	2200	Base track - pencilled postponement date if their 27 August date does not go ahead
Trailrider Day	03/12/22	03/12/22	50	Base track / use of the trailrider to promote Tauranga as an accessible/ inclusive City
s 7(2)(a) - Privacy Wedding Ceremony	17/12/22	17/12/22	80	
King and Queen of the Mount 2022 (date confirmed)	26/12/22	26/12/22	200	Summit

Recent Success

6. Approximately 6 thousand native plants have been planted on Mauao this year.

This included contractors, volunteer days with schools from PIPS, and a volunteer team from WSP Ltd.

All plants planted this year have received rabbit guards placed around them to reduce any possible browsing.
7. The Mauao exotic tree removal was successful and saw 18 large exotic trees removed from sensitive archaeological features. The methodology used proved to be the gold standard, and no damage was done to the archaeological terraces during the removal.

The heavy lift Blackhawk helicopter completed a total of 171 lifts with a total combined weight of 286 tonne of material removed from the maunga.

Please see appendix for some images of the operation.
8. Ongoing rabbit control and burrow fumigation is continuing to be successful.
9. A spring/Puna opened on the southern face of Mauao during heavy rains but has now reduced to minimum flow.
10. Pest animal monitoring showed a bounce back of rats and mice since the Pulse at the start of the year. Rat presence is now 6.7%, up from 0%. Mice presence is now 51.7%, up from 3.3%. Insect presence is now 20%, down from 23.3%.

Although disheartening, this is a common function in control scenarios and a trend that can be learnt from.
Methods will now look to utilise pulses of pesticide every three months to create a knock down effect for mice.
11. Two successful Matariki ceremonies took place on Mauao in June. Both of these events saw approximately 30 Kuia and Kaumatua driven to Te Tihi O Mauao.
12. The Korowai planting document has been finalised.
13. The archaeological research strategy has been finalised.
14. Sign boards depicting the upcoming signage and interpretation have been designed and are ready to be put up. Waiting to align with comms plan.

Planned work for the upcoming period

15. Finish off this year's plantings, this will include more volunteer days. Bringing the total planted plants on Mauao to approximately 7,500.
16. Undertake quarterly pest animal monitoring.
17. Refine the pest animal pulsing strategy.
18. Transplant three varieties of harakeke to Waipatukakahu in conjunction with Jack Thatcher.

19. Address water erosion issue below the stone steps.

Ongoing maintenance

1. 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; andgeotechnical rock stability monitoring and scaling to maintain visitor safety.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Mauao Track Counter Data April 2022 to July 2022 - A13670029**
2. **Mauao Exotic Tree Removal Photos - A13670052**