

10.8 Operational Report

File Number: A12571356

Author: s 6 - Maintenance of law

Authoriser: s 7(2)(a) - Privacy

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 the Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao:

- (a) Receives the operational report for December 2021.

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	589,650.5	506,097	1,095,747.5
2021 YTD	510,065	446,976	957,041

Te Ara Tūtanga (Base Track) Visits

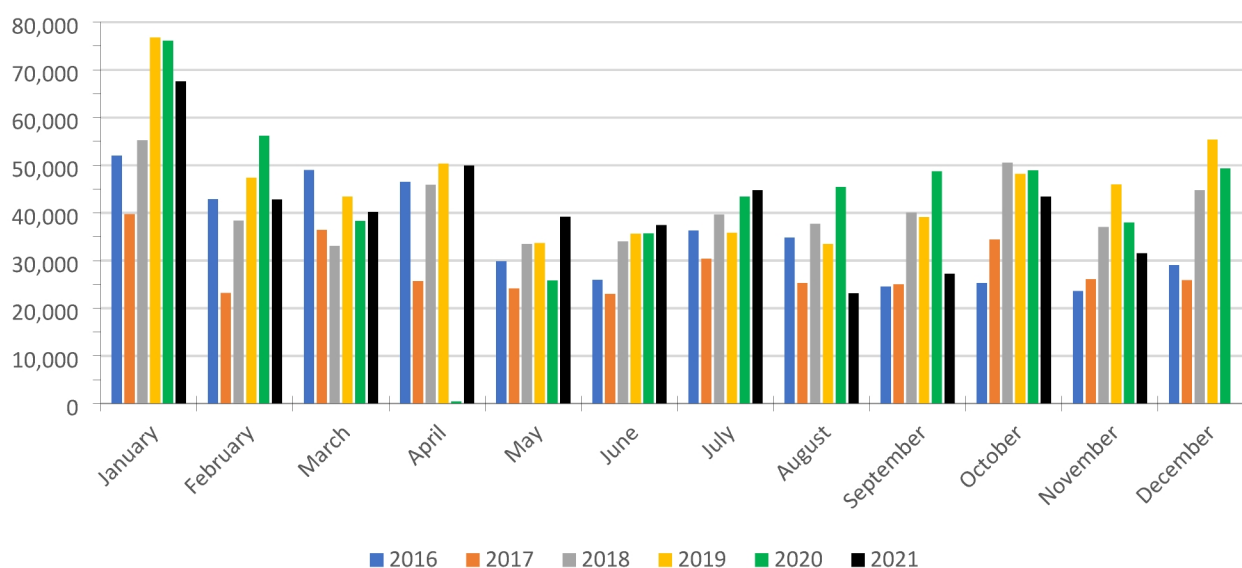


Figure 1: Base track numbers over this year, compared to previous years.

Mauao Summit Visits (Calibrated)

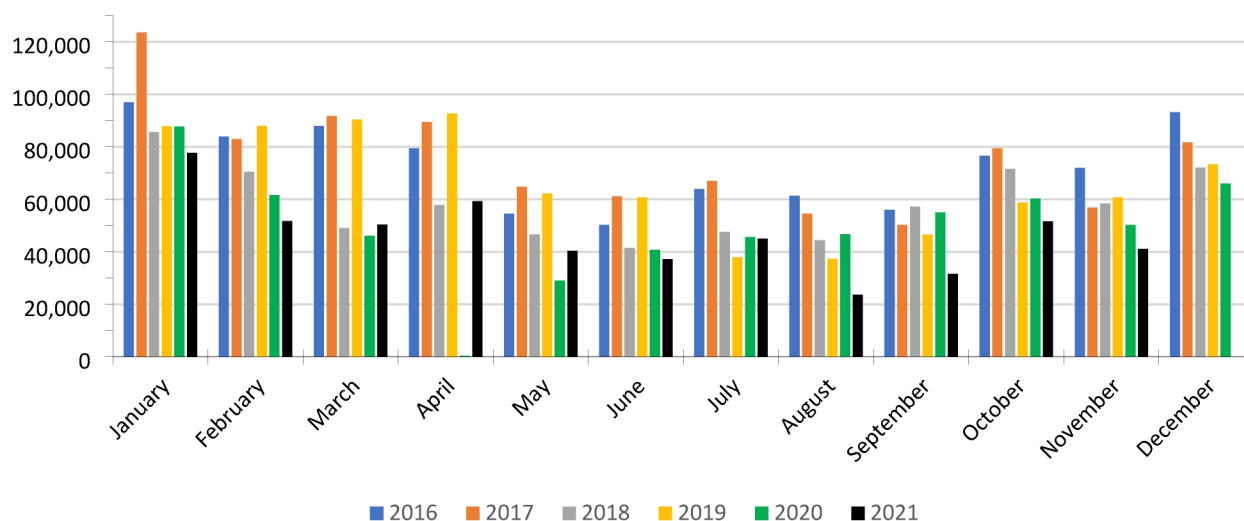


Figure 2: Calibrated summit numbers over this year, compared to previous years.

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).

This extra support from WBWT is allowing the pest control activities on Mauao to go from monthly to fortnightly.

A thank you to [REDACTED] from 'Bay Conservation Alliance' for her time to facilitate this change in volunteer support.

Events

5. 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
Speirs & Duval sunrise wedding ceremony					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
	29/12/21	05:30 AM	29/12/21	06:30 AM		
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					Mt Maunganui Main Beach - Moturiki	Base track
	02/04/22	08:00 AM	02/04/22	05:00 PM		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)					Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Original date 21/08/21, then postponed to 27/11/21 before being postponed to this date
	30/04/22	08:00 AM	30/04/22	01:30 PM		Base track
Ultimate Athlete NZ					Mt Maunganui Main Beach	Base track
	20/05/22	09:00 AM	21/05/22	06:00 PM		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 effect of Covid, 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 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 to Heritage NZ for their record.

Please see appendix for report.

10. Two night-shooting operations consisting of two nights each operation 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 the 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 ██████████ 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. [REDACTED] 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. The active jetty at pilot bay (next to the start of the track) had the light-pole replaced recently with a new solar powered light-pole. This old light received its power from powerlines on the Mauao Historic Reserve. With these powerlines now removed, there is a standing power-pole without purpose that can be removed. With this removed, there will still be access to power via the box on the ground.

Can a decision please be made as to whether this access to power is wanted?

If power is to be retained here, the free-standing pole can be removed and everything else left. If the power is not wanted, the free-standing pole can be removed but then the other power-pole on the reserve which is feed from the road and supplies the free-standing pole, can also be removed. This would include the powerlines from the road to the reserve.

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. 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 March 2021 to June 2021 - A12571355**