

Memorandum



To: Mauao Project Steering Group

From: § 7(2)(f)(ii)

Subject: MAUAO OPERATIONAL UPDATE – AUGUST 2010 TO JANUARY 2011

Date: 21 January 2011

The Purpose of this Report is to update the Mauao Project Steering Group on the activities on Mauao from August 2010 to January 2011

Visitors and Volunteers

The number of people walking around the base track:

- August 2010- 55842
- September 2010- 58964
- October 2010- 67131
- November 2010- 93595
- December 2010-100634
- January 2011- will update at February's meeting

The number of people walking to the summit:

- August 2010-10668
- September 2010-10024
- October 2010-11346
- November 2010-13584
- December 2010-18682
- January 2011- will update at February's meeting

The amount of volunteer hours and volunteer group's:

- August 2010- 40
- September 2010- 73
- October 2010- 104
- November 2010- 64
- December 2010- 40
- January 2011- will update at February's meeting

Volunteer groups that worked on Mauao over this period include Mauao Care Group, Forest and Bird Society who manage the rodent lines and a community service worker.

Sheep at McLaren Falls

The sheep have been moved to McLaren Falls Park. This is to give the paddocks a break and encourage grass growth. It is intended that they are returned late February early March,

but numbers will be reduced to around 130 ewe's and lambs from 230, as the current numbers are unsustainable.

Pest control

A pindone poisoning programme to control rabbits has been undertaken over summer to take advantage of no sheep being on site. The weather before Christmas wasn't great for laying poison, but January has been good.

The Forest and Bird Society has reported a large take on their bait station lines, which they are continuing to feed.

Petrels

Only 15 petrels were banded this year, down from 49 last year. Four of those were from the artificial burrows that the ornithological society has created for monitoring purposes. This is the most in any one year. The overall number is well down on the last couple of years, but this is believed to be because of a shortage of food out at sea.

Learning Through Discovery

Five classes from Tauranga Primary School took part in the Coastal Unit of the Education Programme. This was the last of the programmes (out of 4 which TCC provide) to be delivered in 2010 and it was a success. Twelve Coastal units have been booked for 2011

Spring weed control

Thistle, Bidi bidi and gorse have been targeted in the paddocks.

New Zealand Industrial Abseilers have completed weed control on the bluffs below the summit, targeting Gorse, bone seed and pampas.

Contractors have targeted ginger in the bush on the summit.

Base Track

Infill of rock on the seaward side of the base track has been completed.

Continuation of the Base Track over lay. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the track has now been completed. With remaining to be completed by Christmas 2011.

Ranui Memorial

The small tracks leading to the Ranui site have been upgraded with new box steps and tracks leading down to the plaque.

Track work

Maintenance has been carried out on the steps leading to the Stone steps. Drainage and filling ruts has been completed.

Upgrade of the Goat track (Very Steep track) has been completed, with new steps being installed. The track has not been upgraded to the standard of the Waikorire track, as regular users like a more rugged track to use. However, safety standards have been met.

Summit Upgrade

The breach of a terrace has been filled with a set of box steps going where the breach was. This has joined up the new summit tracks (by the Trig) with the summit bush track. The site has been check by Archaeologist s 7(2)(a) - Privacy is happy with how the project is progressing.

Rock Stability Check

Contractors completed the six monthly rock stability check just before Christmas. No issues with stability were found.

Removal of a Camper on the Summit

A camper was removed from the summit over the 2010 Christmas period. He was found by contractors as they were carrying out weed control in the area.

The following activities are planned over the next 3 months

Waitangi Day Celebrations.

Continuing with the Summit project. Tidying up the edges and joining up the tracks. Laying roll out grass over open clay areas. Restricting vehicle access to the summit.

Planting a 'soft' barrier around new tracks on the summit.

Bring the sheep back to Mauao.

Learning Through Discovery programmes.

Attend the next Mauao Trustee's meeting and provide an operational update.

Mulching of tree waste from last years Arborist work. (Pilot Bay side).

Start of Spring weed control.