

Memorandum



To: Mauao Project Steering Group

From: [Redacted] s 7(2)(a) - Privacy Park Ranger, Mauao

Subject: MAUAO OPERATIONAL UPDATE –OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2011

Date: 17th November

Overview

The Purpose of this Report is to update the Mauao Project Steering Group on the operational activities on Mauao in October / November 2011.

The most significant issue at this time for Mauao is the oil on the foreshore from the stricken vessel Rena. Small amounts of oil have washed ashore and onto the rocks around the base from Main Beach around to 200 meters past North Rock. The worst area being 70 metres before North rock. Maritime NZ have been trying to clean the areas.

The Oruahine Track resource consent documentation has been sent to the requested list of recipients as part of the Historic Places Trust requirements. No feedback has been received to date.

Operational Summary

Visitors and Volunteers

The number of people walking around the base track:

- October 79563
- November Not known at this time

The number of people walking to the summit:

- October 13264
- November Not known at this time

The amount of volunteer hours and volunteer group's:

- October 70
- November Not known at this time

The Volunteer groups that have worked on Mauao over this period are the Forest and Bird Society who manage the rodent pest bait station lines, Papamoa Girl Guides, and a group of students from Singapore.

Rena

Various methods have been implemented to try and clean the oil off the rocks around Mauao. These include:

- Hand collecting of oil.
- Hand scrubbing the rocks.
- Removal of oil contaminated shell.

- Low pressure spraying of sea water, (this is to remove the small pools of oil from surface of the rocks).
- Higher pressure spraying of clean water (this is to take thicker parts of oil from the surface of the rocks).

The Department of Conservation have been conducting nightly inspections around Mauao to identify and retrieve oiled wildlife. There were a high number of birds collected when the oil first arrived, but the numbers of birds collected have reduced significantly over the last few weeks.

Weed control

Summit Bluff spraying project has been completed, this targeted gorse, boneseed and pampas. It was the first time Full Circle Arboriculture has been awarded the contract and they performed very well.

Mauao Care Group

There were two care groups working on Mauao, Papamoa Girl Guides planted 100 native plants and a group of students from Singapore planted 60 natives.

Mauao Reservoir

Taggers have sprayed graffiti around the entire reservoir over the last couple of months. Community Corrections have painted over the graffiti.

Pohutukawa's starting to flower

The pohutukawa's are just starting their summer flowering. The tui's can be seen in the Pohutukawa's while walking around the Base Track.

Forward Focus

The following activities are planned over the next 3 months:

1. Continuation of slip repair work on the Oruahine track, subject to consents being issued.
2. Mulching of tree waste from last years tree work. (Pilot Bay side).
3. Influx of summer visitors.
4. Cleaning the oil from the foreshore around Mauao.

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Park Ranger, Mauao