



## FIXING MAUAO

Some design and construction challenges for the Mauao base track

While repairs have been ongoing higher up the mountain on the summit tracks, extensive planning has been underway in preparation for repairing the base track washouts. The biggest challenge is that it is almost impossible to get the necessary machinery and materials around the base track. This has put huge constraints on what might otherwise be a more straightforward construction job.

### THE LARGEST WASHOUT

The largest washout on the Mauao base track is a combination of three slips that all exit at the same point. This newly created washout gully will continue to deliver large amounts of debris down the slope in future storm events. The challenge is how to reinstate the track while limiting damage from future debris.

### BRIDGE THE GAP!

A 15 m long bridge will be built across this washout. The aim is to allow future debris to wash under the bridge with minimum damage to the bridge and track. The challenge is to find a solution that is the most economic for the long term; to design for most storm events while accepting that 'minimum damage' in this environment is no guarantee. (There are a number of large trees further up the slope which could potentially wipe out a bridge if they came down the slope.)

### INSTALLING THE BRIDGE

The bridge will be designed to take a weight of 4 tonnes. This is not just something you plonk onto the track. To support this bridge, piles need to be drilled deep into the track through rocks and boulders. This requires the sort of drilling rig that can not currently access the site. Access is a huge problem: access for vehicles to deliver the bridge itself and access for the machinery that is required to install the bridge. So the solution to two problems are still being assessed: 1) how to get the bridge to the site and 2) how to install the bridge when none of the necessary equipment can get there. The bridge will probably need to be delivered in sections. This requires some logistical problem solving to ensure that the rest of the track can handle whatever vehicle movements are needed. The Mauao base track is basically just a pathway that has been cut into the mountainside; it was never designed for heavy machinery.

Work starts next week on one of the weakest track sections, after which the remaining slips can be addressed. Hopefully the base track can reopen after August.

## LAST CHANCE!

Don't miss your chance to submit a nomination for this year's Trustpower Community Awards.

The Awards, which are run in conjunction with the Tauranga City Council, are open to all voluntary groups and organisations working to make Tauranga a better place to live.

This year over \$5,000 is up for grabs for nominated groups and organisations.

For more information about the awards, nomination categories or to download a nomination form, visit

[www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards](http://www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards) or contact Suzi Luff at Trustpower Community Relations on 0800 87 11 11

Nominations are due in by Friday 20 May.

## Tauranga City Council will have a presence at this year's Tauranga Home Show.

To be held from 13-15 May at Bay Park, the theme will be 'Sustainable Living'. Interactive models covering water efficiency, solid waste, eco energy and pollution prevention will be available for public learning and fun.



To celebrate The New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards 2011 Tauranga City Libraries will be hosting Rod Rick Magician! Make sure you're there to join in the fun.

**Tauranga Library**  
**Sunday 15 May**  
**2011 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Recommended for ages 4-10 years

Phone

577 7177 for more information.

