

16 February 2021



## **\$25,000 RAISED ON ALPS 2 OCEAN CYCLE TRAIL CHALLENGE**

Cyclists Wayne Munn and Ben Washington rode the entirety of the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail in one day to support both the family of a friend, Craig Petrie, who was killed in a cycling accident near Darfield last year, and the charity Home & Family who work within the Canterbury community to help families live free from violence.

Raising money predominantly through the help of family and friends the two cyclists raised just over \$25,000.

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, Wayne and Ben completed their challenge. They began biking at the foot of Mt Cook at 5am and ended at the historic harbour in Oamaru just before twilight.

The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail is known as “the jewel in the crown of the 22 Great Rides.” It’s the longest trail in New Zealand spanning 315km from the Mackenzie District, which is home to the world’s largest International Dark Sky Reserve, all the way to the Waitaki District, the first aspiring UNESCO Geopark to be established in New Zealand.

Neither cyclist was new to the Trail, having tackled different sections in the past. “We both had a general background in fitness,” Wayne said, “Ben does Iron Man challenges and I do Coast to Coast.”

The effort ended up proving to be more of an emotional challenge than a physical one, “Because we were both raising money for some pretty special causes it was quite an emotional day.”

Throughout the day Wayne and Ben were supported by family and friends—others periodically joining in on the journey. “My wife joined me at Sailors Cutting. We’ve ridden some special mountain bike trails around the world and that Sailors Cutting section was just incredible. We were biking around, there were boats in the lake and you almost had to stop and think, ‘Are we inside a New Zealand tourism commercial?’”

After his cycling fundraiser, Wayne has no plans to hang up his helmet anytime soon. He will feature in an episode of New Zealand’s newest travel series *Adventure All Stars*.

ENDS

For more information, see <https://www.alps2ocean.com/>

### **ALPS 2 OCEAN CYCLE TRAIL KEY FACTS**

- The Trail is the longest cycling trail in New Zealand, spanning 315km.
- An alternative route begins in the Lake Tekapo township and connects with the trail at Tekapo B power station.
- The Trail opened in 2013.

- The trail is maintained and administered by the Alps 2 Ocean joint committee: a partnership of the Waitaki District Council and the Mackenzie District Council. The Alps 2 Ocean is marketed and promoted by Tourism Waitaki.
- <https://mackenzienc.com/scenic-highlights/dark-sky-reserve/>
- <https://www.whitestonegeopark.nz/>

**For more information please contact:**

Natalie Whelan  
Tourism Waitaki  
Public Relations  
[Natalie@waitakinz.com](mailto:Natalie@waitakinz.com)  
P: 021 607 572