

3 FEBRUARY 2021

## THE PERFECT WAITAKI PLAYLIST INCLUDES SUGGESTIONS FROM ANNA CODDINGTON, STAN WALKER & THOMASIN MCKENZIE

Tourism Waitaki is excited to announce the release of The Perfect Waitaki Playlist in time for a long Waitangi weekend road trip through the Waitaki District.

Drawing inspiration from *The Ballad of the Waitaki* by The Plainsmen, the playlist was put together with suggestions from the Waitaki public, local businesses, Tourism Waitaki, The Waitaki District Council, and New Zealand musicians to capture the Waitaki's distinctive spirit.

The playlist consists of 100 songs and is approximately 6 hours long. Starting a road trip from the bottom of the district in Palmerston and stopping off at key points of interest and Geosites that make up The Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Geopark (Macraes Flat, Shag Point, Moeraki Boulders, Oamaru, Elephant Rocks, Benmore Dam, Takiroa Maori Rock Drawings, Clay Cliffs, Lake Ohau) and ending in Lindis Pass will take around 6 hours.

Stretching out the playlist can be achieved by biking the entirety of the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail, which will take 4-7 days or cyclists can try out day excursions.

The playlist includes suggestions from Kiwi musicians Delaney Davidson, Mel Parsons, Devilskin, The Beths, Hera, Grayson Gilmour, James Reid, Earthtongue, Anna Coddington, Stan Walker and more. Actors Thomasin Mckenzie and Bruce Hopkins had input alongside author Owen Marshall CNZM.

Local businesses were encouraged to put forward songs that represented their business or were simply classic road tripping songs. Businesses involved include Whitestone Cheese, The Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony, Steampunk HQ, Poshtel, and Riverstone Kitchen.

Spanning across genres, the songs range from iconic Kiwi favourites (*Don't Dream It's Over* by Crowded House and *Don't Forget Your Roots* by Six60) to lesser known tunes (*Double Whiskey Single Woman* by Brand New Zeros) and universally loved songs (*Sweet Home Alabama* by Lynyrd Skynyrd).

Tourism Waitaki's General Manager Margaret Munro says "the playlist is a feature designed for all listeners and music fans whatever era they relate too, to tap, hum, or sing-a-long while touring through the diverse Waitaki region. Music can be the one thing that holds a time and place together long after the event. It's hoped this playlist will lift travellers spirits higher and forge a memory that's long lasting. We are delighted from the response from all those people we reached out too, having so many outstanding musicians contributing has made it really special".

The Perfect Waitaki Playlist is available to listen to on [Spotify](#). The complete list of songs (and who suggested them) is at [waitakinz.com](http://waitakinz.com)

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For more information please contact [natalie@waitakinz.com](mailto:natalie@waitakinz.com)

## WAITAKI DISTRICT KEY FACTS

The Waitaki District stretches from Flag Swamp almost to the foot of Mt Cook, Aoraki. It is the only

district in the South Island that straddles two regions, lying within both the Otago and Canterbury regions.

The Waitaki District has a population of 23,200. It's biggest town is Ōamaru, which has a population of 13,700.

Ōamaru was laid out in 1858 by Otago's provincial surveyor John Turnbull Thomson, who named the streets after British rivers. By the mid-1880s the town centre was home to an impressive array of buildings made from locally-quarried limestone. The Victorian Precinct boasts New Zealand's best preserved Victorian streetscape.

A Global Geopark is a UNESCO designation that gives world-wide status to a defined area of international geological significance which tells the story of how the geology and landscape has shaped the lives of its inhabitants, be they people, animals or plants. The Waitaki Whitestone aspiring Geopark aims to be the first Geopark in New Zealand.

The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail is the longest cycle trail in New Zealand at 315km, starting in the Mackenzie District at Mt Cook (or alternatively Lake Tekapo) and ending at the Pacific Ocean in Ōamaru Harbour.

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