

Fun Facts about the Waikato

1.

Home of Anchor Butter

Anchor butter was first started in the Waikato by Henry Reynolds. The Anchor symbol and name was inspired by a tattoo on a Sailor's arm. Up to 90% of New Zealand's dairy exports go to the UK, where anchor is one of the countries bestselling butters!

2.

Hot Water Beach

Waikato has its very own **Hot Water Beach at Kawhia**, one of the region's best kept secrets! Head down at low tide and find yourself a spot to dig for instant natural hot water.

3.

Mabel the Mega Cow

Morrinsville has a **6.5m tall, 3500kg fibreglass mega cow called Mabel!** It is also home to 60 smaller fibreglass cows scattered throughout the streets.

4.

The Electric Fence

Hamilton is home to the invention of the **Electric Fence**, by Bill Gallagher in the 1930's. Bill had a horse named Joe that would scratch himself on the family car. Bill created a device that sent an electric current through the car when Joe rocked it. From there the Electric fence was born.

5.

Largest hospital campus in the Southern Hemisphere

Waikato Hospital is the **largest hospital campus in the Southern Hemisphere** and employs over 6000 staff, it provides services to 372,865 people in the region, covering 8% of New Zealand.

6.

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Hamilton is the birthplace of '**The Rocky Horror picture show**', written by Richard Obrien who was working as a barber at the time. Richard was inspired by the films he watched at the Embassy Theatre, and he is now commemorated by a RIFF RAFF statue.

7.

Glowworms

Once a **glowworm** becomes an adult, they will only live for 2-3 days as they are no longer able to eat! The average life-span of a **glowworm** is 5 months.

8.

Waikato Draught

Innes Family Brewery in Hamilton, where **Waikato Draught was born**, was the first brewery fully run by a woman. Her name was Mary Jane Innes.

9.

Home to the Māori King

Ngaruawahia is home to the Māori King. Kingitanga (The Māori King Movement) is one of the longest running political institutions in New Zealand.

10.

NZ's first internet connection

New Zealand's **first international internet connection** was established in 1989 from the University of Waikato.