

WRRP FACT SHEET

It's remarkable to see the journey of WRRT (Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust) from its inception in 2003 to its development into the thriving entity over the years. Here's a summary of the key points from.

1/ Establishment and funding: WRRT was established on February 12, 2003, with its first Board meeting. The initial trustees were Tim Wardell as Chairman, along with Judi Weir, Tom Erikson, Neville Langrish, Bruce Parker, who tendered an apology, and Marian Shore as Manager. The Otago Regional Council provided funding of \$20,000 for the initial setup costs and \$65,000 for the purchase of a baler which is still in use today.

2/ Early Operations: In its early months, WRRT received income from grants, including \$27,300 from the Community Employment Group, \$27,945 from the Waitaki District Council, and \$20,000 from the Zero Waste NZ Trust. Marian Shore played a significant role as the sole employee, supported by volunteers.

3/ Leadership Transition: Time Wardell resigned as Chairman at the first AGM in June 2003, with Neville Langrish taking over this role and has served as Chairman for the last 20 years.

4/ Growth and Challenges: WRRT faced a number of challenges in its first ten years, struggling for viability as recycling found its place in the world. Despite difficulties, it provided employment for over 20 staff.

5/ Volunteers: WRRT has had over 1000 volunteers in its 20 years of operating. Many of whom have gained paid employment during this time. WRRT have offered work experience for many agencies during the last 20 years. This has included individuals gaining work and life skills. What WRRT really are doing is the recovery of people they are just using the waste stream to do this.

6/ Support and Expansion: Despite challenges such as the collapse of world recycling due to China's withdrawal and the Covid-19 pandemic, WRRT has received tremendous support from the community and the Waitaki District Council.

Over time, it expanded its operations, accepting greenwaste in 2005, including accepting rubbish in 2006 which was transported to the Oamaru Landfill. Opening 7 days per week for Recycling, Greenwaste and rubbish drop off. The development of a Garden Corner in 2019 meant that WRRT began recycling of and selling plants. The shop changed from 4 days per week to 7 days per week in 2020.

Overall, WRRT's journey showcases resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to environmental sustainability and community support. The Board of Trustees would like to thank Marian Shore, Tom Erikson, Dave Clare and all past and present staff and Board members for their work during the past 20 years of operating.