



ECO Fund Profile: Waste Free Wanda

Singing, dancing, acting, TikToks... Waste Free Wanda does it all, while working for a waste free world. ORC have had the pleasure of supporting Plastic Free Wanaka to bring the Waste Free Wanda show to schools around Otago this year through our ECO Fund.

This one-woman musical is written and performed by award-winning singer/songwriter Anna van Riel, who aims to empower children to work towards a waste-free world with her 80s-inspired character, Wanda.

With a huge focus on reducing and reusing, instead of counting on just recycling, Wanda's songs tackle issues like single-use plastics, and provide kids with the knowledge and strategies to reduce waste and protect our environment.

"The show has proven to be really effective with tamariki, due to having catchy pop tunes that serve as learning resources. It's a really different and empowering approach to educating," Anna said.

"It shows kids what we can do and how they can be superheroes in their own back yard—because it's really easy to get overwhelmed by the current state

of the planet, and right now we need to figure out what we can do."

Anna has recently completed the Central Otago leg of her tour, inspiring hundreds of kids to take action and leaving them with important messages in the form of catchy earworms.

With the Central Otago and Waitaki legs now under her belt, Anna aims to complete the Clutha leg in Term 1 2021, rounding off a full Otago regional tour.

The Waste Free Wanda show is special because it emphasises getting as many schools on board as possible, no matter where or how big they are.

"I love touring through the small schools. So often our wee schools miss out; I think it's really important to reach them too," Anna said.

If you want to see Waste Free Wanda in action, you can check out her Facebook

page and YouTube channel by searching "Waste Free Wanda", or dance along with her on TikTok @Wastefreewanda. You can also find her music on Spotify for the kids to jam along at home.

About the ECO Fund

To find out more about the projects we've supported through the ECO Fund, or how you can apply, visit our website at www.orc.govt.nz/ecofund.

Our October round has just closed, so applications will be open again from 1-20 March 2021. Get in touch with our team before making an application by emailing ecofund@orc.govt.nz or calling 0800 474 082.