

Mid-year report for InternetNZ

Rural Student Workshops Project

Gather Workshops received \$15,000 of funding from InternetNZ in January 2015 to run 10 Building the Web workshops for rural high schools throughout the country.

Our workshops will be spread over the course of the term 3 of the school calendar and take us from Kaitaia in Northland, all the way down to Winton in Southland. We started our first workshops in Southland and Otago on 21 July.

Spreading the word!

Our work for the series started back in March when we got the word out to rural schools that were taking our workshops to the regions! We announced the series through our [blog](#) and pushed it through our own network of teachers, NZACDITT forums, Twitter, and our personal networks of industry friends and colleagues. Teachers then applied for one of the 10 workshops through our online application form.

Applications

We were blown away by both the number and quality of the applications. We had 16 applicant schools and chose our top 10 based on the level of web design taught (some applicant schools already taught at levels above what we teach in this first module) and proximity from main city centres.

There were some really enthusiastic applications from very passionate teachers whom we were unable to include in this series of workshops. We have earmarked these schools for future workshops, should we become successful in future funding rounds.

Once applicants were finalised, we were able to coordinate a timetable, as shown below:

Workshop dates

<u>Base city</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>
Dunedin	21 Jul	Blue Mountain College, Tapanui
Dunedin	22 Jul	Central Southland College, Winton
Palmerston North	4 Aug	Rangitikei College, Marton

Palmerston North	5 Aug	Hawera High School, Hawera
Palmerston North	6 Aug	Dannevirke High School, Dannevirke
Nelson	10 Aug	Golden Bay High School, Takaka
Nelson	11 Aug	Buller High School, Westport
Auckland	17 Aug	Kaitaia Abundant Life School, Kaitaia
Auckland	19 Aug	Onewhero Area School, Onewhero
Christchurch	18 Sep	Ellesmere College, Leeston

Workshops thus far and feedback:

The first two workshops were hosted last week at Blue Mountain College and Central Southland College with the help of three local Dunedin web and IT professionals.

We have had some excellent feedback from the schools thus far-

"I was delighted with the Workshop run at Blue Mountain College on the 21st of July... I have at least one Year 10 girl who looks like she will go to the IT industry, plus many more who will use the skills as part of their jobs." - Kay Roughan, Blue Mountain College

We are on track!

We are on track for the rest of our workshops with all presenters and mentors finalised for five of the remaining workshops. We are still looking for mentors for Nelson (Buller and Golden Bay) and have yet to commence the search for mentors in Christchurch.

We will continue reaching out through our teacher network, Gather Workshop's social networks, and local businesses to find mentors in Nelson.

As an added bonus, travelling out has also meant that we have expanded our reach and allowed us to network with Tanya Gray, our presenter, networking with local tech community.

Expenses incurred as of 28 July:

Workshops	Expense	Price	Number	Total
21/22 July	Presenter	400.00	2	800

21/22 July	Administration	25.00	20	500
21/22 July	Accommodation	65.00	3	195
21/22 July	Car rental	70.00	4	280
21/22 July	Petrol	65.00	2	130
21/22 July	Flights	105.00	2	210
21/22 July	Daily Expenses	20	4	80
21/22 July	Mentor Gifts	20.00	2	40
21/22 July	Courseware	25.00	24	600
				2835

We are happy to report that we have managed to stick to the budget so far by:

- Using backpackers accommodation;
- Not having the need to book accommodation for mentors as they were happy to do a long drive on the day;
- Overestimating of petrol costs due to assuming 70c/km for use of mentor cars (hire car was used for all travel); and
- Being thrifty with daily expenses.

For the duration of the Rural Workshops Initiative, workshops which come in under-budget will be used to make up the difference for more expensive workshops in remote locations which will likely come in over-budget.

Remaining budget at the conclusion of the initiative will be invested into improving our free and open source courseware.