

Trial Project

[Creative Forest Ltd](#) and NetNZ Ltd are collaborating to develop and implement a prototype project to build student capability in areas of interest in a distributed, connected environment, with a view to developing a global product if the prototype is successful.

We will trial this across interested NetNZ schools in 2018.

Age Range - Year 7-10

Number - This is a trial so we will limit participating numbers to around 35 students.

What is it?

Students will engage in a project driven approach to exploring their passions and interests, within a connected, community based online environment. Students will be able to connect with others beyond their school, including those who share a common interest, mentors to guide them, and experts in fields that align. While students will enter the environment as individuals, the key aspect is finding connections with others, to form project groups and to create a product(s) as a result. Creativity, entrepreneurship, and collaboration are key aspects to this trial.

How will it work?

In essence it is a project which will require dedicated time (of around two to four hours a week) for students to work on their projects and to engage in the online community. Students will drive their own, passion based projects, exploring ways to work and connect with others within the Creative Forest community. Video conferences using Appear.in (via Flock) will be used on a needs basis. Students will use two key online platforms, Notion, a Project Documentation Platform, and Flock, a communication platform.

The role of the onsite teacher / school support

This an online, connected programme largely led by Renea. Students will need onsite support though. Local teachers are welcome to engage in this programme at a level they are most interested in, or that most suits them. At a minimum level students of this age will need someone onsite who is supporting them, guiding them through processes, and helping them when they most need it.

Who?

Schools who are exploring how they can create a more flexible, personalised learning experience for students and in particular, the use of passion projects to engage students in authentic, contextualised learning. The trial itself is designed for any sort of student, whether they have strong passions or not. It is up to schools who they select to participate.

Start: Term Three

End: Term Four

Cost: None at this stage. No enrolment charge. There may be a minor cost related to use of one of the platforms (which does come at a cost of \$8 US dollars per students).

The project lead is Renea Mackie.

[Who is Renea Mackie?](#)



“I’m Renea Mackie, CEO and Co-Founder of Creative Forest Ltd. Over the past 8 years, I’ve been working with kids to help them create some super cool projects and engage with industry folk around the globe. My primary focus has been in the technology and innovation space, helping to prepare a pathway from school to tech start-up.

I work alongside students to help them find new and immersive learning opportunities to build their skills, collaborate, help others, and create their own professional networks. In this field, one size definitely doesn’t fit all. My approach is to empower students to find their own confidence, use their initiative, develop a support network, give as well as receive, learn for themselves, and know when to ask for help.”

Renea worked on a series of projects at Ao Tawhiti, Unlimited Discovery School, most notably, UPT Digital, a groundbreaking web, app, music and games development class. [Find out more about Renea here](#)

What happens from here?

If you are interested in hearing more, [please fill out this expression of interest form](#). We will organise a video conference where Renea will take you through the details of the project.