



Making Maps for Real People

**Media Release: Summer of Code 2.0 is coming**

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Computer students and young IT companies take note! Planning for Summer of Code 2.0 is underway and organisers are calling on interested students and businesses to step forward.

Summer of Code is a Wellington internship programme which links talented students to innovative young internet companies.

The brainchild of John Clegg, of Wellington-based IT start-up company ProjectX, Summer of Code was launched last year to give students work experience in high tech start-up businesses. Clegg says last year's programme was a roaring success.

"The universities were really surprised at how much we managed to achieve – at the quality of the students' work and the really positive impact it had on their learning. Many of the students just flourished over the summer."

As well as work experience, students attend weekly seminars given by people at the top of the industry. Contributors last year included staff from TradeMe and Weta Digital.

John Clegg says the programme is designed to help unleash the wealth of untapped potential in Wellington.

"The students were of amazing calibre. At ProjectX we live and breathe the internet and the skills that some of these students have are right up there. It doesn't matter which country you compare them to, these guys are just as good."

Building on the success of last year's programme, which saw 14 students placed in seven businesses for the summer, ProjectX plans to expand the programme to between 30 and 40 students this year. And the hunt is also on for suitable young businesses to take part.

"The businesses also get a lot out of this programme. They get to network with the other companies involved and to work with some of the best up and coming minds in the industry."

But John Clegg says not just any businesses can join Summer of Code.

"Businesses have to be creative high tech companies but they also have to be able to manage a bright young student. They have to guide them and to give them challenging work. We are not about providing cheap data entry operators."



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Summer of Code received \$100,000 funding from the government last year and ProjectX hopes to soon announce some big name sponsors of the programme.

John Clegg says ProjectX organises and supports Summer of Code because the team is passionate about it, and a large part of the ethos of ProjectX is to give back to the community.

“We are totally committed to getting talented young people working in this city and we are dedicated to making this city a Mecca for technology graduates from all over New Zealand.”

ProjectX is part of the Wellington business incubator – Creative HQ. The start-up company’s flagship product is ZoomIn, a popular interactive mapping website.

Students and businesses interested in Summer of Code should contact John Clegg.

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