

TECHWEEK '18 WAIKATO INNOVATION CHALLENGE

TechWeek (www.techweek.co.nz) is an **annual nationwide festival** aimed at local and international investors, business, technology leaders and enthusiasts that **celebrates New Zealand's innovation ecosystem**.

As part of TechWeek Waikato we are **launching an Innovation Challenge leading up to TechWeek in May** (19-27) focused on technology “**innovation that is good for the world**” for school aged participants and children at early childhood centres across the region.

With strong links to existing technology, science, mathematics and the new digital curriculum the Challenge will be **run through the existing mix of** after-school programmes, in-school/session lessons and other independent initiatives.

Participants can focus on anything relevant to the theme and work with any technology.

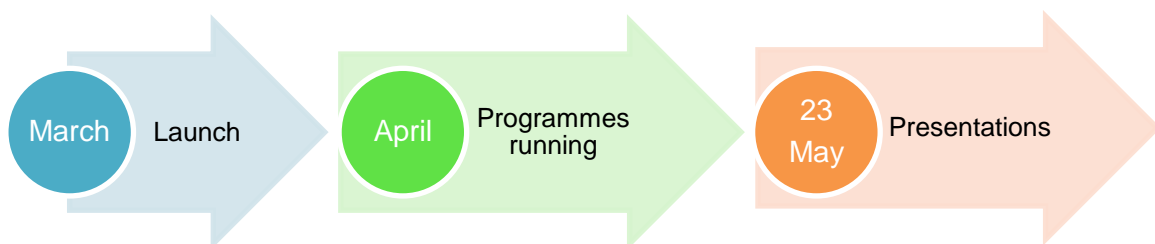
Participants will be asked to **select teams to represent at an event during the Waikato TechWeek festival** where **prizes** and other **incentives** will be presented within a number of categories aligned to the theme "Innovation that is good for the world".

Participation is open to early childhood centres, schools and home schoolers from the Waikato region, with no admission fee.

The Challenge **aims to** –

- Support the development of STEM and other relevant skills
- Inspire school students to innovate with technology
- Provide an opportunity to learn
- Encourage participants to work on a solution to a problem they are interested in

Schedule



New after-school programmes and in-school initiatives

There is an opportunity to **develop new programmes and initiatives** through consultation with schools and community organisations wanting to offer alternative technology innovation experiences. An example is providing Internet of Things technology kits together with teaching and learning resources, facilitation support and guidance.

If your school, centre or organisation would be interested in taking part in Innovation Challenge please contact Jannat Maqbool by email Jannat.Maqbool@wipltd.co.nz or phone 029 289 9353 to **submit your expression of interest by 30 March**.

Also get in touch if you have **ideas or would like to support the initiative** in other ways.

This is your opportunity to be a **key player** in delivering a **high quality, engaging, sustainable and internationally relevant TechWeek '18** showcase promoting the Waikato.