



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Business and School Collaboration

Tags; business, school

Overview

An example of an innovative cross boundary partnership between a corporate ([GE Money](#)), Project Twin Streams and a local primary school.

Detail

GE Money have a very extensive volunteer programme. Employees can choose projects from a list of possibilities and Project Twin Streams is on this list, as is St Josephs primary school.

5 to 6 times a year employees come to work in PTS and on one particular occasion they decided to work with both the school and PTS at once.

GE funded and paid for kids to come and work with 20 to 25 of their employees. Each employee took charge of mentoring different sized groups of children and worked with them to teach them to plant and repair the streamside. (Employees could choose the number of students that fitted best with their level of experience with the planting work).

Project Twin Streams provided technical support and implements, including Health and Safety guidance, and of course the plants.

After planting, the group had a shared meal (GE brought food, and PTS provided hardware to cook it), and local cultural expert, [Riki Bennett](#) helped the group learn about traditional Maori uses of the forest and waterways. This included fire making, using flute music to call birds, the making and use of traditional nets, traps and reed canoes and much more.

It is a great example of multiple groups bringing something to the table, and all gaining positive outcomes from a single experience.