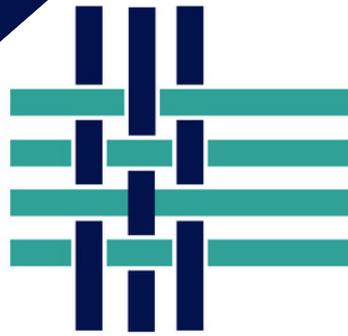


Helen Fitzsimmons



Global Threads Local Ties

SIEBA HUI 25-26 JUNE 2024

Speaker Bio:



**Homestays Manager, Kerikeri
High School**

Topic: Accommodation Panel

Helen has been involved with international students for many years and brings a vast amount of experience and knowledge learnt while working as a Homestay Manager in different high schools around Christchurch. In 2022, she moved to Kerikeri, and she is now the Homestay Manager for Kerikeri High School.

In the past Helen and her family have hosted a diverse range of international students from different parts of the world. She has a good understanding of what it takes to be a successful host family, and this has helped her in her role as Homestay Manager.

Her focus is being a strong support for both the international students and the host families. She sees the homestay experience as an important part of the student's success while they are in New Zealand. For Helen, seeing the host family and the student getting on well together and making lifelong friends with not only the student but their families back home is a great achievement.

Helen is a mentor for the Running Start Programme.