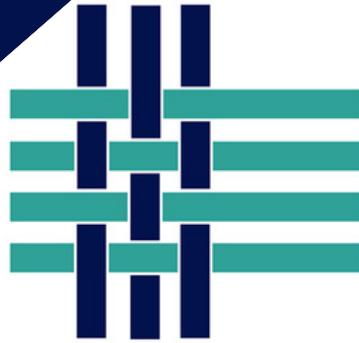


# Lisa Garrett



## Global Threads Local Ties

SIEBA CONFERENCE 25-26 JUNE 2024

### Speaker Bio:



**International Department  
Manager,  
Avonside Girls High School**

Topic -  
Managing Difficult Situations in  
Homestay

My interest in experiencing the world and new cultures was amplified by a wanderlust inherited from my parents. I naturally gravitated into a 28 year career in the New Zealand travel industry and I lived in London and Sydney in my 20's, but my heart is in Christchurch.

After the Canterbury earthquakes many people felt the need for a life change, and I was one of these people. My friend and now also colleague told me how Avonside Girls' High School were rebuilding their international student programme after closing due to the earthquakes and asked if I would be interested in coming aboard to help with homestays and administration. So here I am 11 years later in a job where no day is ever the same, and the interesting and sometimes crazy work stories are hard to beat.

My wanderlust continues through our students by familiarising myself with their cultures and ways of life. We have confronting unforeseen challenges daily which can be due to cultural differences but mostly because we work with teenagers, who are the same the world over. In this sector we learn as we go and we have to adapt and manage different situations not only with our students but with agents, parents and host families, it's a melting pot!

This is a sector I knew nothing about before coming to Avonside Girls High and I have no regrets because it's such a rewarding and fascinating job. I look forward to presenting with Julie Manche to talk about managing difficult situations in homestays.



[lgarrett@avonside.school.nz](mailto:lgarrett@avonside.school.nz)  
0211744769