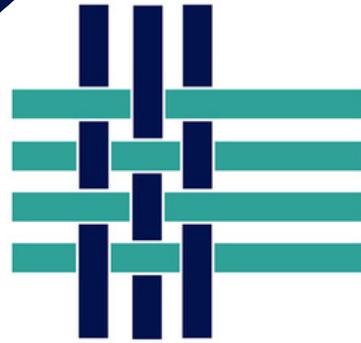


Louise Silvester



Global Threads Local Ties

SIEBA CONFERENCE 25-26 JUNE 2024

Speaker Bio:



**International Director,
Avonside Girls High School**

Topic -

'Supporting Homestay Families
with Cross-Cultural Challenges'

Louise Silvester is the International Director at Avonside Girls' High School in Christchurch. She has worked in the education sector for over 20 years and she was an ESL, Japanese, Social studies and English teacher prior to moving into the international education sector. She has been in her current role for 11 years and she has oversight of the international department and staff. Louise has recently been appointed on the ISANA NZ board.

Avonside Girls' High School is a culturally diverse community with a provision for 60 international students. The International team revel in the energy and diversity international students bring, there are so many strong and enduring relationships created as a result of their international programme which is really positive for their school community. During her time at Avonside Girls', Louise and her team have grown the programme significantly and they pride themselves on offering quality pastoral care and tailored support. The international department offers a well supported local, national and global international student volunteer programme for international students. All international students are encouraged to join the volunteer programme and to help in a variety of different organisations, it is a great opportunity for international students to take advantage of different opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

Louise was the recipient of the ISANA NZ Tracy Evans Scholarship in 2023. She was awarded the scholarship for being an excellent example of what being in charge of a successful international programme is all about. Louise enjoys mentoring and supporting new Directors in the industry and she is passionate about Global Citizenship education.

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