

TESS MORRISON

Raised in Northland, Tess enjoyed a full Kiwi upbringing with all the trappings of life outside the 'big smoke' before training as a French/ESOL and English teacher at Auckland University.

Very early in her career she travelled to Europe and spent a number of years teaching and living in France, England and Turkey. She worked as a lecturer in the University town of Reims in France, before moving over to England. While there, she diversified into the Adult Education sector, delivering courses in French, German and ESOL. She also tutored school students of all ages in English and Mathematics. In Istanbul, she enjoyed the experience of working at a private high school teaching English and ESOL. During her time away she also dipped her pen into the freelance writing market and added to her qualifications, a Diploma in Clinical and Pastoral Counselling.

Having now been settled back in New Zealand for over 12 years, Tess is currently the Gifted Education Programme Co-ordinator at an Auckland high school, where she also teaches English.

It was when she first took on this role that she became aware of the complexities of gifted education and the real importance of improving understanding and provision to better meet the needs of these learners. Since then she has made it her mission to make a difference where she can. Tess has benefited from the Gifted field's supportive network for help along the way.

She herself has completed the REACH course (Certificate of Effective Practice in Gifted Education), and last year reviewed Rosemary Cathcart's fourth and latest edition of 'They're Not Bringing My Brain Out'. This review has since been published in NZ Principal.

Passionate about the environment, she is committed to a sustainable future and is driven to incorporate this into her practice. Tess takes inspiration from the natural world and has created an amazing refugium at her home in Titirangi. She has overseen the successful recruitment and development of many young leaders, often on a sustainability platform. Other interests of hers include writing, health and nutrition.

Mother of two lovely daughters, who are currently pursuing studies in the UK, she is looked after by her cat and collection of six vocal cockatiels.