



New Zealand Centre
for Gifted Education

Empowering Extraordinary Minds

Gifted NEX Information Pack

Connecting Teachers with Teachers



Gifted NEX

NZ Centre for Gifted Education

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Gifted NEX

Networks of Expertise are a Professional Learning and Development (PLD) strategy employed by the Ministry of Education to deliver support for teachers and kaiako via subject associations and peer-to-peer networks. They complement the centrally funded PLD model but take a 'for teachers, by teachers' approach, encouraging collaboration and sharing of expertise.

Gifted NEX supports principals, management, teachers, Learning Support Coordinators, GaTE Coordinators, RTLB and SENCO by providing access to professional expertise, growing local networks, nurturing local leadership and developing professional pathways.



Communication - updates and newsletters with links to events, opportunities, people and resources.



Networking - face to face regional meetings, links across the sector to other educators.



Knowledge Growth - self-guided mini modules online and discussion starters.



Mentoring - access to support and guidance to develop a career in gifted education.



Membership benefits:

Gifted NEX provides advocacy and representation at a national level for gifted learners and their educators in general.

In addition, being a member includes:

- Access to face to face and/or online hui 2-3 times per year
- Access to posters and discussion cards
- Access to self-guided quizzes and follow up materials
- Once a term national newsletter
- Access to a calendar of professional learning activities and opportunities
- Opportunity to share practice and/or research
- Networking opportunities to connect with other educators in the gifted education space
- Forum to ask questions
- Reduced cost to attend online AAEGT events (Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented)

Members can be from Early Years, Primary, Secondary or Tertiary education settings, maybe home-schooling parents or maybe educational professionals involved in supporting gifted learners.

Access:

Register for the Network from the NZCGE Gifted NEX page: www.nzcgge.nz/giftednex
Register here: <https://forms.gle/yv31b1uZhhUDSD1N7>

Current Gifted Aotearoa members must re-register to remain within the Network.

Login via the Gifted NEX webpage to access Google Drive resources.

Getting to know the team:

Gifted NEX is a service provided by the New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education.

Project Lead: Deb Walker

Regional Facilitators: Regional Facilitators coordinate all local Network meetings. Each facilitator brings their own diverse experience and expertise to the Network plus their passion for gifted learners and gifted education in general.

Regional Facilitators are the first port of call for local queries, suggestions and recommendations and will share their communities strengths and needs with Network.

Reference Panel: To ensure a collaborative approach in the spirit of a shared network, the Gifted NEX team includes a small panel involved in recommendations and feedback regarding the bigger picture of the Network. They aim to provide diverse representation across the Network to ensure multiple voices and perspectives are heard as the Network grows and develops.

Deb Walker

Project Lead



What first got you into gifted education?

The passion of a philanthropist, Christine Fernyhough, who established a programme to support gifted children in low socio-economic communities. She sold it to me through her passion for their potential and I've never looked back.

What do you love about working with gifted kids?

Their passion, humour, diverse interests, intensities, creativity and hunger for learning. No two days are the same - actually neither are any two minutes!

Tell us about a gifted kid who stands out for you and how you were able to support them.

Where to start - there are SO many! Hard to mention just one but over my time teaching in a specialist withdrawal programme I really can't emphasise enough the value of like-minds together, being able to provide a safe place, a supported space and a cohort of connections that proved life-changing for many gifted learners.

What is the quirkiest gifted kid passion you can recall?

I once met a young gifted kid who workshopped for the MindPlus programme as Napoléon Bonaparte. All of his responses were totally in character and correct - I Google checked later!!!

What's the best advice you've been given regarding gifted kids?

Accept them for who they are and support them by accepting their reality as your starting place.

Current Regional Facilitators

Whangarei, Northland: Emma Scobie Jennings

Auckland Central: Tania Plaisier

Auckland West: Sylvie Howell

Franklin/Papakura: Melissa Powell

Auckland South: Charlene Barnett

Hamilton: Jodie Kennedy

Rotorua: Sue Bufton

Taupo: Carrie van der Zwaag

Gisborne: Sunny Bush

Palmerston North: Suzanne Smith, Jo Dean

Christchurch: Lizzie Wilson, Cristy Yonetani, Susannah Debenham

Ashburton: Melanie Simons

Reference Panel - We need YOU!

To ensure a collaborative approach to support offered and to continue in the spirit of a shared network, Gifted NEX would like to develop a small panel to be involved in recommendations and feedback for the community moving forward.

Participation would involve quarterly Zoom meetings, feedback on ideas and some discussions with other network members.

Email your expressions of interest to giftednex@nzcge.co.nz

