

AKTESOL EVENT

AKTESOL's next event will take place online on the **23rd July at 6:30 pm (SAVE THE DATE!)**

Zoom Link 23 July Event: <https://auckland.zoom.us/j/93586051037>

There will be two speakers, Dr. Tracey Mullin and Dr. Helen Pamela McCann. Tracey's presentation will be on writing development across the curriculum. It will also include some insights on how reading prepares students for writing.

Helen will present findings from her doctoral thesis, entitled 'Bilingualism and Identity: Chinese students' perspectives on an independent bilingual school'. Her presentation will outline her positionality, rationale, methodology, and findings from research conducted in China, focusing on identity, culture, and language. She will also draw connections to the New Zealand educational context, highlighting some of the challenges faced at her current school, where the student demographic is becoming increasingly diverse linguistically and culturally.

Speaker Bios

Dr Tracey Millin is a TESOL teacher trainer at the University of Canterbury, where she was the programme lead for the MTESOL and PGCertTESOL programmes between 2019 - 2025. Based in Dunedin, Tracey specializes in TESOL teacher education. Her research expertise is in scaffolding writing through structured, scaffolded approaches that embrace text modelling. Her research focuses on the *Reading to Learn* (R2L) pedagogy, a genre-based approach that integrates reading and writing instruction to support English language learners. Tracey's work ensures equitable learning opportunities for all students through R2L pedagogy. She is also currently exploring the use of generative AI as a teaching assistant to support teachers in the teaching of writing.

Learning is for life, and life is for learning – a mantra that **Dr. Helen Pamela McCann** embodies throughout both her professional and personal life. Originating from the UK, Helen is an experienced international educator, who has had the privilege of working in five different countries: UK, Lanzarote, India, China, and New Zealand. Helen is fascinated by languages, cultures, migration and cross-cultural leadership. Her global experiences have shaped her belief that positive relationships with all stakeholders are the foundation upon which impactful, culturally-responsive education is built. Helen currently works at Rangitoto College as the Kāhui Ako Across School Leader for ESOL and Cultural Representation, and Assistant Head of the ESOL department.