2022

Rae Munro Award

Lorraine Sands

University of Waikato

Lorraine Sands' dissertation, *How learning stories shape understandings of children's learning identities in one community of practice: A narrative inquiry*, investigates the impact of learning stories on learner identities at an Early Learning Centre. This research demonstrates the value of thoughtfully-written learning stories and the important role they play in developing and reinforcing a shared language of learning that reflects what is valued in the community. A strength of this study is how it privileges tamariki voices, supported by kaiako and whānau perspectives. The wairua of Te Whāriki imbues this dissertation, weaving a sense of coherence and connectedness throughout, from the literature, through the methodology, to how Lorraine worked with her participants and data, and how the findings were analysed and discussed.

This dissertation demonstrates a thorough approach to all parts of the research process. Lorraine clearly articulates implications of her research as points of resonance for others, while also acknowledging the complexities of connecting such research to different contexts. Implications for policy and practice are explicit and relevant for policymakers, teachers and leaders, in addition to avenues of future research.

Lorraine articulates her understandings and findings in a scholarly fashion beyond what is expected for masters level.

For these reasons we consider Lorraine as a worthy recipient of the Rae Munro Masters Thesis award in 2022.