



Department of Zoology



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

10th December 2007

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is with great pleasure and enormous pride that I write a letter of recommendation for Maurice Ling.

Maurice was first a student in two of my courses and then he completed an Honours program under the supervision of Dr. Kevin Nicholas in the Dept. Zoology. Honours is only offered to students who have performed very well (top 5% of students) and is the fourth year offered at Universities in Australia as part of the Bachelor of Science Degree. During the Honours year, the student undertakes an independent research project.

It is without doubt that Maurice is within the top 5% of students undertaking post-graduate studies at the University of Melbourne. Maurice has approached his post-graduate studies with a strong drive for excellence. He is focused, determined and highly motivated. He thoroughly enjoys the challenges of his post-graduate studies and has applied himself diligently. He not only understands his subject material thoroughly, but he also presents his work in a very understandable manner. Given the complexity of his research topic, this is indeed a great achievement.

He is clearly very interested in both the theory and technical approaches to addressing scientific questions. So much so that he began collaborations with other investigators in order to undertake a line of investigation using a fresh new approach on his own initiative. It is this kind of enthusiasm and initiative that has led to great scientific breakthroughs and I have no doubt Maurice will make important contributions in his field of interest. He has given several conference presentations and has already published some of his research work

Maurice communicates his ideas professionally, has great interpersonal skills and is able to exchange scientific ideas easily and in an approachable spirit of learned collaboration. I do not believe I have met anyone to equal his perseverance and determination to not only achieve his goals but to achieve them at a high standard.

Maurice is extremely capable and will pursue successfully a career as an independent scientist and educator, and there is no doubt that he has the experience and expertise to make important contributions to his field of research as well as educate the next generation of young scientists to a high standard. I strongly recommend him for an academic position in your institution. I am absolutely sure that he will do very well.

Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have any other questions concerning Maurice. It is wonderful to see a bright young student reaching his full potential as a very capable academic.

Yours sincerely

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