

Jodi Turnbull

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The Rivers of Gold Project: Understanding how gold mining shaped Victoria's rivers

www.rivers-of-gold.com

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To whom it may concern,

It is a pleasure to write this reference for Derek Reid whose acquaintance I made during the research for our Rivers of Gold, ARC funded project: a multi-disciplinary collaborative project between La Trobe University and Melbourne University examining the impact of gold mining on Victoria's rivers headed by Professor Susan Lawrence.

I contacted Derek via the Newstead Historical Society, in December 2016 for some information on the Loddon River and mining and since then he has become an integral part of our historical research team, by not only providing historical resources but valuable local insight and support during our fieldwork activities in the region.

Derek was able to provide me with very relevant primary research material that gave us the background historical information required to help formulate our fieldwork methodology. I was immediately struck by the quality and depth of Derek's research material, and the speed at which he was able to retrieve relevant information from what must be a vast archive of material. The large amount of material he has provided has been well compiled, referenced and carefully tailored to our particular research aims.

Derek has shown a keen interest in our research and we have been fortunate that he has been able to join us on several fieldwork trips. He has assisted our team of archaeologists, geomorphologists and soil scientists in the field by helping to locate areas of interest and has been instrumental in liaising with local landowners and persons who may be of assistance to our work. He has thus been invaluable in assisting with the organizing and implantation of our field program at Newstead.

Derek has an intelligent, enquiring mind and demonstrates many of the skills required to enter into an academic environment above a first year level. His commitment to volunteer work and to personally retrieving exhaustive primary references, particularly from the Public Records Office in Melbourne (which deserves an academic degree in itself) demonstrates a passion suited for academic pursuits. His research, organizational and interpersonal skills displayed during our research program and the large amount of high quality volunteer work he has done with the Newstead Historical Society should undoubtedly be recognized and credited.

I wish Derek all the best in his future directions,

Sincerely

Jodi Turnbull