



A/Prof Bradley John Evans
Armidale NSW 2351
Australia

Phone: +61 438123438
Email: bradley.evans@une.edu.au
www.une.edu.au

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To whom it may concern

I have supervised and taught Tom Armstrong, at the University of New England over recent years. He has been a positive contributor to my Earth Observation Laboratory and performed exceptionally well in my units of study on same. Tom has consistently achieved high grades, reflecting his strong analytical abilities and deep understanding of the subject matter. Bringing his previous education and professional experience in audio engineering to bear on his studies with me.

I am primary supervisor for Tom, on his upcoming honours project, towards which he has already shown initiative and commitment. His project involves training and testing machine learning models for classifying bats endemic to his study region. Combining his understanding of zoology and environmental science, and his audio engineering to modern scientific challenges. Tom has approached this project with enthusiasm and a clear vision, showing a high level of independence and innovation in his research planning.

Tom is an exceptional scholar, a pleasure to work with, and I am 100% confident that his strong work ethic and passion for remote sensing and ecology will serve him well in his future endeavours. He is a highly capable and motivated student, and I am certain he will be an asset to any team.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley John Evans', is written over a horizontal line.

A/ Prof Bradley John Evans

PhD, BSc EnvSci (Hons), BSc Energy Studies

Chief Investigator @UNE's Earth Observation Lab

<https://eolab.au/>

Course Coordinator of Master of Environmental Science and Management

<https://www.une.edu.au/study/courses/master-of-environmental-science-and-management>

Vice President of Earth Observation Australia

<https://www.eoa.org.au/>

Faculty of Science, Agriculture, Business and Law

School of Environment and Rural Science

Ecosystem Management ~ EcoMan

University of New England

Armidale NSW 2351 Australia

Phone 0438 1234 38

Email bradley.evans@une.edu.au

Web <https://www.une.edu.au/staff-profiles/ers/bradley-evans>



Environmental and Rural Science
Faculty of Science, Arts, Law and
Business
University of New England
Armidale NSW 2351 Australia

Ph: 02 6773 2424
Deborah.bower@une.edu.au
www.une.edu.au

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide a reference for Tom Armstrong who has been a student of mine for the past two years during his undergraduate degree at the University of New England. I teach a unit called 'Zoology in Practice' which spans three years and teaches the students career skills, enabling me to understand their aspirations and advise on their degree path.

Tom is a highly engaged student. Though he has completed most of his degree remotely, he keeps in touch frequently and is highly interactive with the class and course content through forums and discussions. His grades are exceptional with a current GPA of 6.7 and he is clearly committed to achieving high distinctions in his academic trajectory.

Tom is part of the UNE Zoology Society and has volunteered extensively to gain additional skills demonstrating his eagerness to acquire practical experience outside the curricular activities at UNE. His experience includes Glossy black cockatoo bioacoustics monitoring and analysis in addition to the development of a cockatoo real time audio classifier. He has helped Honours students to analyse camera trap images and developed his skills in programming languages such as R and Python.

I would not hesitate to provide Tom with an opportunity to complete future study or gain employment if I were able. He is polite, engaged, intelligent and shows great promise in his contribution to future zoological research and conservation. I would be happy to discuss this further and I am available to answer any further questions.

Yours sincerely,
A/Prof Deborah Bower

Associate Professor Deborah Bower





9th January 2024

Professional reference for Thomas Armstrong

To whom it may concern,

Thomas Armstrong has been a valued team member of Bushland Conservation Management (BCM) starting with us on the 13/02/2023. BCM have been very impressed with how Tom has from the beginning, been active on our Glossy Black Cockatoo Conservation & Bioacoustic project and has volunteered many hours in monitoring and research. Tom has attended training with us under leading Bioacoustic specialists at the University of the Sunshine Coast which included refresher training in the use of Raven Pro and running a recognizer over the data. Tom was very comfortable in this space of coding and the software used. The most impressive contribution to date has been his passionate build of the 'Glossy-Pi' to aid our Bioacoustic research that covers large areas to deliver faster data of 'positive call hits' direct to our phones. Tom saw a need for this technology when he saw the slow turn around of traditional Bioacoustic methods of SD card collection every couple of weeks. This new technology is being trialed and utilized here on the Sunshine Coast this breeding season and will allow for us to throw further monitoring earlier into areas the Glossy Pi detects Glossy Black Cockatoo activity.

Tom also undertakes bushland regeneration, and revegetation across multiple conservation projects on varying bushland reserves including National Parks, Council Conservation Reserves and Land for Wildlife Properties. Daily duties include implementing assisted regeneration works, maintaining and enhancement of native ecosystems, and weed management strategies, adhering to safe work method statements for manual tasks including correct tool selection and use, bagging and removal of weeds via chemical and manual weed control. The use of maps is a daily task along with the use of ArcGIS software for mapping. Tom came to our team already holding excellent fauna identification and knowledge and his flora identification for Southeast Queensland is consistently growing. Tom is also a consistent contributor to our daily fauna sighting records at the end of each workday.

Tom is a positive team player and a hard worker, and we are certain has a progressive and rewarding conservation career ahead of him, we believe Tom would excel in a conservation technology role into the future.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require any further information in relation to this reference.

Best regards,

Kim Morris
Managing Director