

Reference for Patricia McLean

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I have known Patricia McLean for some twelve years, both as a colleague and as a friend. Throughout that time I have very much appreciated her efficiency, her lively sense of humour, her humanity and sympathy, and her intelligence.

Patricia was completing her doctoral thesis on Maurice Gee's fiction for adults just as I was starting my doctoral thesis on Maurice Gee's fiction for children, and we had many stimulating conversations about Gee and his books. Patricia was incredibly generous in her interest and encouragement. Indeed, Patricia's splendid thesis on the construction of masculinity in Gee's adults' novels was inspirational. Not only did it include valuable new insights into Gee's work, but it was also lucidly argued and beautifully written. It provided me with many ideas on which to draw in my own thesis.

More recently Patricia agreed to edit an article I had written for an international journal. Her editing skills were impressive. Where I thought my grammar was sound, Patricia's exquisite phraseology caused me to think otherwise, and I followed her suggestions unhesitatingly. Furthermore, Patricia's perceptiveness, breadth of knowledge, and ability to cue in to the precise point I was trying to argue, and her tactful but focused suggestions contributed to a much better article than might otherwise have been the case.

I have no hesitation in recommending Patricia for employment.

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