

CAREER PROFILES:

ÁINE LAWLESS

COASTAL PROGRAMMES OFFICER



AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOB:

I get to work across a number of projects as part of my role in Clean Coasts. Some of that work includes meeting with community groups, running campaigns about beach cleaning & Marine Litter and facilitating events like beach cleans, biodiversity surveys and sand dune protection workshops.

WHERE ARE YOU USUALLY BASED?

Office, home and beach – it varies depending on the day!



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

I love that there's a huge variety in the work I do and that I get some time outside away from desk work.

A TYPICAL DAY...

My days vary a lot depending on events and the time of the year but a typical office day might look like: 9.15am – 10am: answering emails. 10am – 12pm: working on a campaign or creating content for the 2 Minute Beach Clean project. 12pm – 1pm: Team meeting. 2pm – 4pm: Planning upcoming events and contacting community groups. 4pm – 5pm: Writing a blog post, newsletter or researching for an upcoming project.

Once or twice a week I will have an event or beach clean that takes up about half the day.



WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

Sand everywhere! The one downside to spending so much time on the beach is that most of my things are permanently covered in sand.



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HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS CAREER?

I have a masters degree in an environmental field and I have some previous experience working in communications and in community focused non profit work, which all came together to give me a really good start in Clean Coasts.



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

Get involved in your local beach cleaning or volunteer group and be open to trying different types of work. Having a varied background will stand to you in the long run and mean you're more prepared when the job you want comes along.



BESIDES FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS, WHAT SKILLS OR TRAITS ARE MOST USEFUL FOR YOUR TYPE OF WORK?

Facilitation skills, public speaking, community engagement and communications.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS LINE OF WORK?

2 years



WHAT WORK EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS OR TRAINING WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR GETTING INTO THIS CAREER?

An undergraduate or postgraduate degree in an environmental discipline such as; geography, marine biology or sustainability would be a good starting point. Experience with non profit organisations, environmental groups or oddly enough communications/marketing could be beneficial – a lot of the work we do revolves around public awareness campaigns.

