

INTERNSHIPS (3) WITH BOOMERANG ALLIANCE, MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION, JUNE 2016

Employer: Boomerang Alliance (Hosted by Total Environment Centre)

Work Type/s: Paid Work Experience

Contract Summary: 16-24 hours / week for at least 13 weeks

Remuneration: \$10-15 per hour + superannuation and expenses.

Focus Areas: 3 Internships working on specific aspects of our Marine Plastic Pollution campaign -

- Policy Development
- Field Research
- Communications

Location: Positions are based in Sydney, though there are opportunities for positions to be hosted elsewhere via Boomerang Alliance member groups.

Overview: Boomerang Alliance is the peak ENGO voice on waste, recycling, litter and marine debris in Australia – reflecting the views of our member groups and acting as the focal point for our combined campaign efforts. Over the past 10 years, our work programs have expanded into every aspect of the waste stream. Our efforts have seen a high level of success including: the introduction of Container Deposit Systems in the NT and NSW (with Qld and the ACT expected to follow shortly); plastic bag bans in SA, NT, Tasmania and the ACT; the introduction of Product Stewardship Schemes and tougher new regulations for E-Waste, Tyres and CFL globes; strengthened laws on illegal dumping and litter; the introduction and increase of waste levies in NSW, Victoria, SA and WA.

Boomerang Alliance operates a unique structure in the NGO Sector – not only do we advocate for changes to waste policy, we are also active in investigating the operations and performance of the waste and recycling industry. We have set the standard for waste and recycling operations and our investigations have led to over 100 penalties and prosecutions being issued by regulators over the past 2 years. Some of more unique victories include: the removal of the dodgy recycler Carbon Polymers Ltd from the ASX; uncovering the largest illegal dump site in the world (in Stawell Victoria) and pursuing Australian rogues smuggling waste across the Vietnamese and Chinese borders.

Our work is directed by a team of 8 staff: 4 based at TEC in Surry Hills, 2 in Qld and 2 who telecommute.

While we are currently working across a range of campaign platforms our major focus for 2016 is to put a stop to the proliferation of plastic in the world's oceans – with the intent of delivering a comprehensive plan on how Australia can cut 70% of the plastic we release into the marine environment by 2020.

The Positions: Our internships are aimed at providing practical work experience to young Australians who want to develop a career in the ENGO sector. While work experience is traditionally unpaid, Boomerang Alliance recognises the financial strains associated with work experience and consequently remunerates these roles at a level that offsets the costs associated with work – rates of pay are between \$10-\$15/hr.

Interns will work with one of the senior BA staff and the interns work plan will reflect a combination of basic office duties to support our staff along with a focussed work stream reflecting the interns proposed career direction. Successful interns will need to be able to commitment to undertake 16-24 hours per week for a period of not less than 3 months. The focal areas for this round of internships include:

1. **Communications.** The Communications Intern will work with our Programs and Mobilisation Manager – handling the day to day communications on our web site and social media platforms, distribution of media releases and the marketing program for a proposed National Marine Plastic Pollution in October this year.

In addition to the competencies outlined below it is anticipated that the successful Communications Intern would be studying in the fields of communications, journalism, marketing etc. The applicant should be comfortable dealing with media and ideally have an understanding of Photoshop, using social media and creative writing.

2. **Policy Development.** The Policy Intern will work with our National Policy Director to develop our plan to cut 70% of all Marine Plastic Pollution (MPP) by 2020 and will be expected to identify and collate

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information regarding the extent and impact of different aspects of plastics in the marine environment, disseminate information and gain feedback on key aspects of MPP from our allies and ensure we have sufficient evidence to support our recommendations.

In addition to the competencies outlined below it is anticipated that the successful Policy Intern would be studying in the fields of law, commerce, political science, or economics. Ideally, the applicant would also have a basic understanding of how environmental policy and regulation is established in Australia and be able to demonstrate an ability to interpret and communicate complex information.

3. **Field Research.** The Research Intern will work with our campaign team to build a base of citizen science highlighting key aspects of the plastic pollution problem. This would include mobilizing teams of volunteers to undertake sampling of microplastic and plastic litter found on our shorelines, collating the results of sampling and assisting in the organisation of a number proposed expeditions into some of the most remote parts of Australia. The Policy Intern will also act as a secretariat for BA's newly formed Scientific Panel who will review our proposed policies to ensure they have the necessary rigour to be adopted by government.

In addition to the general competencies outlined below it is anticipated that the successful Research Intern would be studying in the fields of biology, zoology, etc. Ideally, the applicant would be able to demonstrate the ability to instruct volunteers on sampling with a sound scientific method, recording information and report writing.

Attributes and Competencies:

The successful applicants would be expected to be able to demonstrate:

- A passion for environmental protection and ambition for a career in the community / science sector.
- The ability to undertake day to day project management activities under supervision.
- Strong written and verbal communications skills.
- An understanding of the problems associated with plastic, particularly in the marine context.
- Able to participate in internal meetings and the ability to be the record keeper of these meetings.
- Competence in basic office software (word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.)
- Undertaking (or recently completed) study relevant to the particular internship.
- Ability to work in teams and understand their first priority is to support their Team Leader's workload.

Selection Criteria:

1. Broad understanding of our organisation and the issues we are working on.
2. Demonstrated ability to collate, interpret and communicate qualitative and quantitative information.
3. Experience working within small teams.
4. Personal organisation and time management skills including the capacity to work to tight deadlines.
5. Strong written and oral communication skills – able to produce spontaneous, coherent and persuasive argument for a general and specific audience.
6. Strong interest in and understanding of current public policy and political debates including on topics such as recycling & waste management.
7. Relevant academic study.
8. Demonstrable skill set that aligns to their chosen internship.

Next Steps: Applications close on Friday 8/7/16 - please send your application, including a cover letter to anthony.lazzaro@boomerangalliance.org.au. To find out more about the positions call Anthony Lazzaro (0415 389 611) or Dave West on (0404 093 718). For more information about Boomerang Alliance see – www.boomerangalliance.org.au.