# Marine Technician, Flourishing Oceans, Minderoo Foundation

## Organisation Summary

**Minderoo Foundation**

Established by Andrew and Nicola Forrest in 2001, the Minderoo Foundation is a modern philanthropic organisation seeking to break down barriers and drive positive, lasting change. We are proud to be a founding member of the Australian Council of Philanthropic Organisations, and one of Asia’s largest foundations, with AUD$2 billion committed to a range of global initiatives.

Minderoo Foundation is independent, forward thinking and seeks effective, scalable solutions. Our work is made up of key initiatives spanning from ocean research and ending slavery, to collaboration in cancer and building communities.

**Flourishing Oceans**

A healthy ocean is one that can withstand a changing climate and increasing human pressures, is resilient and free from pollution with a plentiful abundance of fished species. As human pressures increase and the health of our ocean continues to decline, dramatic steps are required to protect and conserve this resource.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goal (14) and its targets, our key objective is to return our ocean to a healthy thriving state. To facilitate this, we are committed to ending overfishing; ending the dumping of plastic, heat and CO2 in our ocean; supporting the sustainable use of ocean resources; conserving key habitats; and facilitating world class research.

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**MERL**

The MERL is a recently commissioned world class marine research laboratory located in Exmouth, Western Australia. The facility provides aquaria facilities, laboratories and resources for collaborative research focused on addressing key research priorities that will help better understand this world heritage listed region and the broader Indian Ocean.

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**Culture & Values**

Courage & Determination, Empowerment, Enthusiasm, Family, Frugality, Generating Ideas, Humility, Integrity, Safety & Stretch Targets

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**Position Title**

Marine Technician  
Flourishing Oceans, Minderoo Foundation

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**Reporting To**

Minderoo Foundation Exmouth Research Laboratory (MERL) Operations Manager  
Peter Farrell

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**Location**

Exmouth, Western Australia

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**Terms of Employment**

6 months (February 2022 – July 2022)

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**Position Summary**

Under the direction of the Minderoo Foundation Exmouth Research Laboratory's (MERL) Operations Manager, the Marine Technician will be responsible for providing technical support to staff and researchers in the delivery of safe and effective laboratory and field-based research activities.
Working collaboratively with other team members, as well as internal and external stakeholders, the appointee will be responsible for assisting in the planning, logistics and undertaking of safe and effective laboratory and field-based research.

This will involve coordinating the maintenance of the MERL vessel and vehicle fleet and assisting researchers with on ground pre-trip logistical support as well as field-based support. Field support will include but not be limited to skippering MERL vessels for external researchers where the appointee will act in accordance with the expectations of a vessel master, ensuring best practice safe work standards for all operations.

The *Marine Technician* will also provide support in maintenance, operations and experimentation within the Aquaria and Molecular Laboratories as directed.

Working in a dynamic and flexible team environment, the appointee will help develop and maintain excellent working relationships within the Minderoo team as well as with external national and international collaborators and stakeholders.

The nature of laboratory and field research and experimentation means that non-traditional work hours will be a part of this role and it the role will require regular 24 hour on call (shared between the team) to manage key equipment and delicate research projects.

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<th>Key Responsibilities (50%)</th>
<th>The work duties of the <em>Marine Technician</em> include:</th>
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<td>• Skipper MERL research vessels in accordance with the expectations of a vessel master</td>
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<td>• Coordinate and lead maintenance of the MERL vessel and vehicle fleet</td>
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<td>• Support laboratory activities including routine maintenance and repairs, animal husbandry and experimental set up</td>
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<th>Support Duties (50%)</th>
<th>• Support Research Coordinator in operation of Molecular laboratory</th>
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<td>• Liaise closely with the team and a range of internal and external stakeholders (e.g. technical support teams, marine crews and external contractors) to ensure effective planning, logistics and equipment requirements for upcoming field trips.</td>
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<td>• Assist in the general maintenance in the laboratories, office and accommodation areas</td>
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<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>• Coxswain Grade 1 or higher (essential)</th>
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<td>• Manual Drivers Licence (essential)</td>
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<td>• Relevant First Aid Qualifications - minimum of Senior First Aid, CPR and Advanced Resuscitation or equivalent (essential)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• A tertiary qualification relevant to marine science or engineering or equivalent combination of relevant experience and education/training (highly valued)</td>
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<td>• Rescue Diver (highly valued)</td>
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Work capabilities, experience

**Essential:**
- High levels of experience and confidence operating small vessels (up to 8 m) in a range of conditions.
- Willingness to work non-standard working hours that will be associated with specific research project needs.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate openly and respectfully with team members and a range of internal and external stakeholders and work collaboratively to achieve common goals.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, without supervision, in a dynamic and time critical work environment.
- Technically minded individual with a proven ability to problem solve.
- Be self-directed, forward & creative thinker, pro-active and have a ‘can-do’ attitude.

**Desirable:**
- Understanding of or experience working with aquaculture or scientific aquaria.
- Experience operating vessels around the Exmouth area.
- Experience undertaking field and laboratory based marine research.
- A background knowledge of HSE principles and regulations relating to marine research.
- Demonstrated experience in the coordination of multidisciplinary projects, with the ability to plan, organise and monitor progress against tight timeframes with competing priorities.
- Confidence and experience interacting and presenting to members of the public.
- Computer literacy and knowledge of Microsoft Office applications.

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People Management

This role has no direct supervisory responsibilities; however during field work on the water when acting as the master of a vessel, this role will be responsible for the safety and regulatory and operational compliance of all researchers aboard the vessel.