

WHARFSIDE APPRENTICESHIPS

ENGINEERING A CAREER WORKING WITH BOATS

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"I really wish that school kids were better informed about marine engineering and apprenticeships in general," says MARLEY COBURN.

The 17-year-old is an apprentice mechanical engineer (fitter/machinist) with Titan Marine Engineering in Freemans Bay, Auckland.

In February, he left Auckland Grammar School at the start of Year 13 to take up his apprenticeship.

Marley waited until he had his apprenticeship confirmed before deciding to leave school.

He says his family was not convinced about his career path at first, but he knew he wanted to go into a trade — an office job was of no interest to him.

"I was interested in boats and engines and when I heard about marine engineering, I thought it sounded more interesting than automotive, was a bit more niche and had a wider range of jobs."

Titan Marine Engineering provide marine and industrial engineering services to clients from New Zealand and around the globe.

"We do maintenance on lots of ships that come in, many from Fiji and the islands. We also do fabrication and welding, such as fabricating and welding in a whole new hull section," says Marley.

"Recently, I have been doing lots of fitting, including dropping all the anchor chains and anchor wires to inspect. We were also doing the seals for the propeller shafts, working on valves and I have got to do some engine work as well — plus doing oil changes which I was pretty pleased about."

What Marley loves about coming to work every day is the variety of work in marine engineering.

"There is always something new and different to do most days. I am also working with my hands, which I enjoy."

Marley's apprenticeship is organised through industry training company Competenz.

"We have a guy come in every Wednesday after work, which is really helpful. He does a study group with us so he can answer questions and help us with our paperwork."

"My apprenticeship is meant to take four years but if you can get the paperwork done you can make it shorter. The key is finding the time for it and keeping on top of it."

In Year 12, Marley took English, Maths, Physics, Geography and Industrial Design, which has been very helpful.

He showed some initiative to get an interview with Titan Marine Engineering.

"I found their website by luck really when I was searching online for marine engineering. I emailed them and they got back to me, asking me to come in for an interview."

"They told me they preferred people with no prior experience so they could train us from the ground up. They were looking for hard workers."

Marley's advice to school leavers — if you see something you like, then just go for it.

"The worst thing they can say is no. The trades are having a bit of a boom at the moment, with new government funding based around getting high school students into trades, so career options are good."

"The marine industry is a good area to get into as it is a global industry. You can go quite far with it."



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KEY FACTS



- **MARLEY COBURN** IS AN **APPRENTICE MECHANICAL ENGINEER (FITTER/MACHINIST)** WITH **TITAN MARINE ENGINEERING** IN AUCKLAND.
- HE SHOWED INITIATIVE BY EMAILING THE COMPANY DIRECTLY AFTER SEARCHING ONLINE FOR MARINE ENGINEERING.
- **MARLEY** LEFT **AUCKLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL** AT THE START OF **YEAR 13** TO TAKE UP HIS APPRENTICESHIP, WHICH IS ORGANISED THROUGH **COMPETENZ**.

ONLINE



For more information about the apprenticeship programme with **Titan Marine Engineering**, visit www.titanmarine.co.nz/apprenticeship-programme