

Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation

Cultural Awareness Key to Doing Better Business

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This week, Yamatji Land and Sea Council (YLSC) staff will gather at the foot of the world's largest rock, Burringurrah, to discover a deeper understanding of the diversity of Indigenous culture in the Mid West.

Over twenty YLSC staff members travelling from Geraldton and Perth will take part in this year's Cross Cultural workshop. The group depart Geraldton on Monday morning and travel throughout the Gascoyne region, visiting places of cultural and spiritual significance, including Wooremal River, Bilung Pool and Mount Augustus (Burringurrah).

Roy Bellotti, YLSC Chairperson said, "The Cross Cultural workshop allows Traditional Owners to share the stories of their Country, while providing staff members an insight into the world's oldest living culture."

YLSC Future Acts Officer, Samantha Rosenfeld, is looking forward to visiting the region and gaining a greater understanding of the importance of 'Country' to Traditional Owners.

"I feel honoured that I have been given the opportunity to hear the stories of Traditional Owners, it's important to me as a staff member to see the big picture and keep in mind why we work so hard to represent the rights and interest of Yamatji people."

One of the significant sites YLSC staff will visit during the workshop is Mount Augustus, or Burringurrah as it is known by Wajarri Yamatji Traditional Owners. Burringurrah is approximately twice the size of Uluru and plays a significant part in Aboriginal dreamtime culture.

"Workshops such as this help staff gain insight into the cultural structures that come with the Country we live on. Having an understanding of the interconnectedness of the dreaming and the land, and how any breakage of this link, say through significant sites being destroyed, can impact on Aboriginal culture is vital to the every day work YLSC staff undertake," said Roy.

"I strongly recommend any organisation that has business with Traditional Owners in the Mid West to consider providing their staff with Cross Cultural training. I think awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal culture and history is a key to doing better business".

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