

Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation

Scholarship for Pilbara Native Title Service

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The Office of Native Title's annual scholarships for the Graduate Diploma/Certificate in Applied Anthropology (Native Title and Cultural Heritage) at the University of Western Australia have been awarded.

Sanna Nalder, an in-house research anthropologist at the Pilbara Native Title Service's Karratha office is one of four native title practitioners to win the coveted scholarship.

Sanna joins Rae Markham and Megan Hancock from the Office of Native Title and Janet Osborne from Goldfields Land and Sea Council in the online course.

Sanna hold a Master's degree in Cultural Anthropology, studied in Finland and the U.K. and moved to Karratha to join PNTS in early 2007.

"I love living in Karratha with its beautiful scenery and space around me. Work with claimants is fantastic, hearing and learning about people's lives and culture, going to the country, researching the past and present," Sanna said.

She said her scholarship win, which is valued at almost \$5000, is a boost for her and her employer, a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB).

"The scholarship as will let me to get more specialised skills in the field of anthropology as well as meeting professionals from other organisations. It is also an opportunity to get a more comprehensive view of all the different aspects of the whole Native Title process."

While liaising with traditional owners of the Pilbara and consultant anthropologists, developing genealogies and undertaking research for native title claims are just a part of Sanna's job; the scholarship will help Sanna keep up-to date with changes in native title case law.

"I am sure I will gain more practical skills and knowledge that will enable me to work more efficiently, which will benefit all the projects we have going on at PNTS. I am hoping also to compare practices with other Rep Bodies and researchers, and get some new ideas that we can apply here," she said

The online course is comprised of four units that examine cultural heritage and anthropology, legal issues, as well as a five-day residential workshop component at UWA.

Sanna heard about the course from colleagues.

"Some of the PNTS anthropologists had done the course before and recommended it highly. They felt it was very useful in their everyday practices as well as creating good contacts."

The scholarships are offered every year by the State Government's Office of Native Title to applicants employed by NTRBs, government departments and other native title respondent parties.

The course provides participants with a broad understanding of native title research and its intersection with native title law.

With hundreds of native title claims across Australia waiting to be resolved, more researchers are needed and the knowledge gained in the course provides extra capacity in the field.

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