ISSUE 3 | *July 2008*

PNTS News

News from Pilbara Native Title Service

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Above: Simon Hawkins & Doris Eaton

New leadership team **for PNTS**

Last month Pilbara Native Title Service announced Mrs Doris Eaton, Njamal Traditional Owner as chairperson of its Executive Committee. Mrs Eaton is joined by Mrs Natalie Parker, a Nyiyaparli Traditional Owner, as deputy chairperson.

As chairperson Mrs Eaton's role includes listening to issues from members and working with the PNTS Committee and staff to progress native title in the Pilbara.

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer, said both Mrs Eaton and Mrs Parker bring strong leadership experience and a wealth of traditional knowledge.

"Pilbara Native Title Service is very fortunate to have a strong committee of Traditional Owners leading the organisation. The next twelve months are vitally important for the Pilbara in terms of resolving native title claims and mining agreements. Mrs Eaton and Mrs Parker's knowledge and leadership will be of great benefit to our clients, the Traditional Owners of the Pilbara," he said.

Pilbara chairperson, Mrs Eaton said that she is looking forward to her new role.

"The main aim is to get native title rights so that people are free to walk on their land, for hunting and gathering and to practice their custom.

I've been in native title since it started and have seen the work of the old people who are now gone. It gave me the driving force to continue their work and encourage more young people to step up to these kind of roles.

We all need to work together to achieve the best outcomes for Aboriginal people," said Mrs Eaton.

While we have made every effort to ensure this publication does not contain any culturally sensitive material, there may be references to, and images of, people who have since passed away. If you have any concerns please contact us.

Message from the Pilbara Regional Manager **Nyaparu Jeffries**

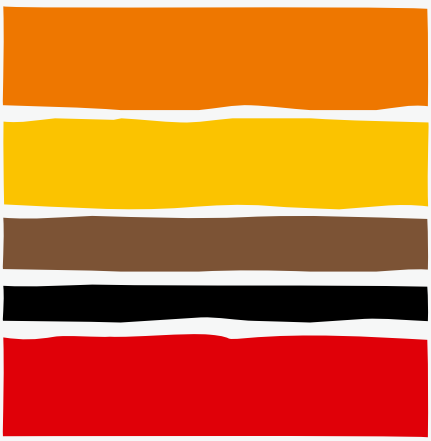
Welcome to the third edition of PNTS News.

As Regional Manager I am proud to announce the launch of the new Pilbara Native Title Service (PNTS) vision, mission and logo which focuses on the importance of Country.

This edition also talks about our new chairperson Mrs Doris Eaton, the Nyangumarta native title claim, our Karratha anthropologist Sanna Nalder, as well as updates on native title in the Pilbara.

We have also recently opened our new Karratha office at Unit 4/5 26-32 DeGrey Place, Karratha.

Enjoy reading our newsletter and please pass it on to friends and family, or call us to get a copy delivered to you.



Pilbara Native Title Service

Pilbara Native Title Service **unveils the future**

Pilbara Native Title Service (PNTS) is proud to announce our new vision and mission. The Board of Directors and the management team have worked closely to create the new direction, while still acknowledging the organisation's past achievements.

Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Mrs Eaton, is proud of the direction that PNTS is taking.

"I'm glad our organisation is focused on the importance of 'country'. We need to work together to make sure Aboriginal people in the Pilbara can walk free on their land, practice their custom and look after sites as we have been doing for thousands of years," said Mrs Eaton.

OUR NEW VISION, MISSION AND LOGO

Our vision is Country. Country is our mother, our provider and keeper of our cultural belongings. Culture and Country go together. You can't have one without the other.

Our mission is to work with Pilbara Aboriginal people to pursue:

- Recognition and acceptance of culture in country
- A strong future for people and country

The **new PNTS logo** has been designed to symbolise the landscape of Pilbara country while including the colours of the Aboriginal flag.

Front L-R: Stan Stylianou, Simon Hawkins, David Wright, Michael Meegan, Brian Jones, Boyo Mitchell, Laurence Hodder, Kathleen Musulin, Doris Eaton, Annie Toh. **Back L-R:** Roz Charter, Toby Smirke, Nyaparu Windie, Nyaparu Jeffries, Les Stevens, Vaughan Lane, Richard Oakley, Doug Comeagain, Fred Taylor, Vince Jones, Roy Bellotti, Russell Simpson, Natalie Parker.

Pilbara and Mid-West **come together**

CHANGES FOR ABORIGINAL CORPORATIONS

Last year, the Federal Government announced changes to the way Aboriginal Corporations are run as part of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act.

Pilbara Native Title Service (PNTS) and Yamatji Land and Sea Council (YLSC) are both part of the Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation, which will be affected by these recent changes to the Act.

In May, the Executive Committees of PNTS and YLSC met in Exmouth to draft a new corporate constitution that will include the Government's changes.

After two days of discussions, a draft constitution is now being prepared to take to our members. In the coming months all members will be advised of workshops to talk about these changes. A special general meeting will also be held later in the year for all members to vote on the changes.

Please contact your nearest PNTS office to make sure we have your correct contact details to send information about the workshops and special general meeting.

Above: 80 Mile Beach, Nyangumarta country

My Country, My Language - PILBARA ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

In the Pilbara there are 31 different Aboriginal languages. Many of these languages have between 2 and 5 dialects.

Today many Aboriginal people speak standard Australian English or Pilbara Aboriginal English in addition to one or more traditional languages. Some people no longer speak their traditional language but identify as being from that heritage.

Sign language was also a very widely used communication form and is still very evident today. Many people also speak more than one traditional language with Elders commonly speaking 5 to 8 languages.

All Pilbara's Indigenous languages are endangered due to the use of the English language and the issues around the settlement of Australia by English speakers. Of the 31 languages traditionally used in the Pilbara, 7 of those are extinct in that there is not a single speaker of the language. The remaining languages are classed as being either highly endangered, endangered or under threat.

'My Country, My Language' is kindly provided to 'PNTS News' by Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre. For more information on Pilbara languages visit:
www.wangkamaya.org.au
or phone: 9172 2344.

Front L-R: Winnie Coppin, Ada Stewart, Alma Gray, Rosie Munro, Charlie Wright, Tiesha Tinker, Teddy Hunter.
Back L-R: Lorna Linmurra, Nyaparu Rose, Fabian Whyardie, Malcolm Wilson, David Wright, Janet Stewart, Darcy Hunter.

Nyangumarta claim **moving forward**

Last month, members from the Nyangumarta group met at 80 Mile Beach to negotiate with pastoralists and the State Government for a consent determination of native title.

In 2006, the Nyangumarta people and PNTS presented a connection report to the State Government of Western Australia.

The connection report was written by Anthropologist Dr. Nick Smith, who worked closely with the Nyangumarta people to collect the information that was needed to move the claim forward.

"The Nyangumarta people registered their native title claim in 1998, and it is a testament to their patience and determination that we are at this vital stage of the claim," said Pilbara Native Title Service Regional Manager, Nyaparu Jeffries.

The Nyangumarta claim covers approximately 39,931 square kilometres of land and sea, and lies in the Shires of East Pilbara and Broome. The negotiations are ongoing with the hope of a native title determination later this year.

Connection to Country - **WHAT IS A CONNECTION REPORT?**

A connection report is information given by Traditional Owners to the State Government. The information is used to explain the group's traditional connection to country. A connection report includes information on systems of law and custom, plus historical and language information.

If the State Government accepts the report's findings, the native title claim group members can start negotiating towards a native title determination.

Scholarship goes to **PNTS anthropologist**

Sanna Nalder, anthropologist at Pilbara Native Title Service's Karratha office, was recently awarded the Office of Native Title's annual scholarship for the Graduate Certificate in Applied Anthropology.

Sanna has been with PNTS since early 2007, and has studied cultural anthropology, in both Finland and the U.K.

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

Sanna said her scholarship win, which is valued at almost $5000, is a boost for her and will benefit PNTS and its clients.

"The scholarship will let me get more specialised skills in anthropology. It also means getting a broader view of the different parts of the native title process.

I am sure I will gain more practical skills and knowledge that will help me work more efficiently, and 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.

New Karratha Office

Last month we moved into our new Karratha offices giving us more room for our growing team. Our new address is Units 4/5, 26-32 DeGrey Place Karratha. Phone numbers and faxes will stay the same.

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PNTS News

News from Pilbara Native Title Service

Above: Innawonga country

New Freecall Number: 1300 7 12345

From June, Pilbara Native Title Service will have a freecall number. The number has been created to make it cheaper and easier for members to contact us.

Callers using the number will be automatically directed to the nearest PNTS office from where the call is originating from.

Please note that the 1300 number is only for landlines, not mobile phones.

ABOUT US

PNTS News is produced by the Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation.

We are the native title representative body for native title claims in the Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne areas of Western Australia.

We work with Pilbara Aboriginal people to pursue:

- Recognition and acceptance of culture in country
- A strong future for people and country

SERVICES

Our work includes:

- Providing legal representation and research to assist with native title claims
- Negotiating land use agreements
- Heritage protection services
- Community, economic and environmental projects

MEMBERSHIP

PNTS membership is open to all adult Pilbara Aboriginal people. Our membership also includes people who live in other areas but who have a traditional connection to Pilbara land.

SUBSCRIBE

Get PNTS News delivered to you! To join our mailing list, contact your nearest PNTS office.

PNTS NEWS is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Please note that the information contained in this newsletter does not constitute legal advice.

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