

practical training within the academy is vital in attracting graduate anthropologists to native title work.

The responsibility of training anthropology graduates should not only fall on academia, but as Toni Bauman argued, on senior anthropologists working in native title who are in the best position to mentor young anthropological graduates.

The conference identified the many challenges for anthropologists working in native title. Despite such challenges, the presentations and discussions demonstrated the positive impact of anthropologists and the use of anthropology in creating better native title outcomes.

Further issues arising from the native title presentations at the 2009 Australian Anthropological Society's conference will be published in a forthcoming publication from the NTRU.

Office of Native Title Connection Workshop

By Sarah Johnston,
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On the 12th and 13th of November, the Office of Native Title (ONT) hosted its 2009 Native Title Connection Workshop in Perth for native title stakeholders nationwide.

"About 100 people attended the workshop from all over the country to exchange information about the native title connection process and native title issues in general," ONT Acting Research Director Sarah Charbonneau noted.

The workshop consisted of a series of topics spread over two days regarding native title and the native title connection process. The topics were presented by lawyers and anthropologists who have worked in the area of native title within the private and public sector.

Legal professionals such as Graham Hiley QC, who co-conducted the 2006 review of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), and Federal Court judge Justice Barker gave presentations. This was complemented by presentations from well known native title anthropologists David Martin and Mike Robinson.

Topics included legal issues arising from connection assessments, the utilisation of pleadings, challenges facing Native Title Representative Body anthropologists, evaluation of Western Australia's connection assessment process, the value and limitations of collecting information directly from claimants, the current state of native title case law, resource issues in native title and new directions in native title.

Ms Charbonneau concluded that "Discussions following the presentations were robust and gave the ONT a good perspective of stakeholder issues regarding native title and the native title connection process."

On the second day of the workshop ONT Executive Director, Gary Hamley announced the Review of the State Government's Native Title Connection Guidelines.

Ms Charbonneau reported that the ONT had sought advice from Graham Hiley about the effect of case law developments on these Guidelines. The ONT is now internally reviewing this advice. "The Office hopes to circulate the proposed changes to the Guidelines for external comment around April 2010," she noted.

