Law student wins doctoral scholarship

23 February 2016

We’re pleased to congratulate Faculty of Law PhD student Adrienne Paul. Adrienne is the recipient of a Waikato University Doctoral Scholarship worth approximately $85,000 over a period of three years. This includes tuition fees and scholarship instalments over the tenure of her scholarship.

Her PhD is entitled In the case of an environmental accident, such as the grounding of the MV Rena on Astrolabe Reef (Otaiti), does the Resource Management Act 1991, as required by international law, have sufficient environmental protection inclusive of Intangible Cultural elements? If not, how should that be achieved?

“I’m focusing on the spiritual aspects related to Maori views and concepts” Adrienne says. “At present it’s difficult for lawyers to justify this aspect of an argument in court.”

Adrienne chose to use the example of the container ship MV Rena on Astrolabe Reef as it was the first major environmental disaster in New Zealand. She also witnessed discussions that were happening around the incident as she was on the Te Patuwhai Tribal Committee. She attended regular meetings with external organisations and reported information back to Te Patuwhai Hapu. It was this journey that inspired Adrienne to undertake her research in Maori legal issues within the environment.

Alongside her research, Adrienne works as a Maori mentor and law tutor at Te Piringa – Faculty of Law and a note taker for Disability Support Services.

“The scholarship has taken a lot of pressure off me financially” she says. “Studying, working and caring for my family all at the same time isn't easy.”

Adrienne completed a Bachelor of Laws at Waikato in 2013 with a double major in law and in management communication. She also completed a Master of Laws in 2014. Adrienne will be coming to the end of the first year of her PhD in June.

“It's an honour to have the recognition and financial support of Waikato University.”

Applications for the next Doctoral Scholarships close 30 April 2016. [Apply today!]