



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## Tenth Anniversary for WISTA NZ

Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) New Zealand last month celebrated a “decade of impact – a lifetime of influence”.

Over 130 members, sponsors and friends gathered at an Auckland event to mark “a decade of fostering diversity, leadership, and empowerment within the maritime industry”, advised WISTA New Zealand president Yoyo Chu (pictured).



“WISTA New Zealand, since its inception in 2014, has been at the forefront of advocating for gender equality and creating opportunities for women in the traditionally male-dominated field of maritime,” said Ms Chu.

“The tenth anniversary celebrations were an opportunity to reflect on the past achievements and a reminder of the mission towards a more inclusive and diverse future for the maritime sector.

“WISTA New Zealand proudly boasts a membership now in excess of 275, with chapters in Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch, and enjoys the support of a wide range of members and sponsors across the sector. Notably non-members including men are welcome to attend events.

“We’ve hosted over 120 events in the ten years (pew!) and are proud to now have over 40 organisations who are corporate members, widening the opportunity for their staff to participate. None of this would have been achieved without the generous support of many in the industry, but also not without the tireless voluntary work of the committee over the decade.”

Corporate sponsors who spoke on the night entailed:

- in person – Alister Wishart (Oceanbridge Shipping) and Brodie Stevens (Port of Tauranga)
- via video – Dave Anderson (Cubic Transport), Roger Gray (Port of Auckland), Anthony Delaney (CentrePort Wellington), Lianne Maskell (Neptune Pacific Direct Line), Leah Booth (Pacific Forum Line) and Mark Darrah (Reliance Transport)

Ms Chu said sponsors shared “how they saw the value of WISTA New Zealand to their organisations and the wider maritime community, with a common theme of the importance of collaboration, mentorship and continuous learning in driving positive change within the industry”.





Commemorative pins were also presented to:

- the past and present committee
- those who have been continuous members during the decade
- the “First XV” women who signed in support of the incorporation of WISTA New Zealand in early 2014
- Lianne Maskell of NPDL as the winner of the tenth anniversary slogan competition – which Ms Chu confirmed was now being used in the organisation’s branding

“As WISTA New Zealand looks to the future, building on the achievements of the past decade, the organisation remains committed to driving positive change by providing professional and personal development via speaker events, networking opportunities and advocacy initiatives aimed at empowering women at all levels of the maritime industry,” continued Ms Chu.

“Our members, sponsors and supporters are drawn from a wide range of organisations including ports, shipping line operators, freight-forwarders, logistics companies, importers and exporters, seafarers, maritime lawyers, maritime and logistics academics, marine insurers and recruiters into the maritime industry.

“We are focused on providing support and networking opportunities for women working in the maritime, transportation and related trading industries in New Zealand, and raising the profile of the industry as a positive career choice for women.”

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