

World Maritime Day Celebration, Queensland Branch

World Maritime Day (WMD) was celebrated on 10 October 2019 by the Queensland Branch. In keeping with the IMO theme “*Empowering Women in the Maritime Community*”, the Branch invited Women’s International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) to co-host the event.

Following a light lunch our Chairman, Captain William Burton, welcomed panel members and attendees (60 in all) and gave special thanks to Norton Rose Fulbright for the use of the venue year after year, and to Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand (MLAANZ) and WISTA for their contribution and assistance with the event. The meeting commenced with the video message of the Secretary-General of the IMO, Kitack Lim.

Unlike past WMD celebrations, there was only one speaker for the event. Amanda Cooper, a Brisbane City Councillor, gave an excellent introduction on her personal commitment to ensure a strong community spirit that promotes diversity and equality. The other panel members included:

- Captain Jeanine Drummond, Harbour Master of the Port of Newcastle and Yamba in New South Wales. Jeanine was previously Deputy Harbour Master and General Manager Operations in Sydney. She is currently Chair of the International Association of Ports and Harbours Women’s Forum and one half of the driving force behind the Nautical Institute South East Australia branch’s “*365 day Women in Maritime Challenge*”.
- Amiria Macbeth who has 9 years’ experience as a service technician and integrated rating. Most recently Amiria worked with Shell’s revolutionary Prelude FLNG offshore production facility.
- Angus Mitchell, the current General Manager of Maritime Safety Queensland. Angus served in the Royal Australian Navy and was previously Deputy Harbour Master for the Ports of Sydney and Botany and Executive Director of New South Wales Maritime.
- Rebecca Young is the director of Personalised Freight Solutions, a company she co-founded. Rebecca is an active member of WISTA having previously held the position of Treasurer and Marketing Co-ordinator.

The question and answer session was co-hosted by Kendall Messer and Nicole Franklin. Kendall is an insurance lawyer with Hall & Wilcox and Nicole is a senior associate with Colin Biggers & Paisley. Both Kendall and Nicole are active members of WISTA. There was excellent interaction between the panel and guests with many interesting insights and examples of progress that has and could be made in promoting the inclusion of women in the maritime community. In closing, Kendall Messer reiterated the importance of not just ticking the box and moving on but continuing to promote women in the maritime industry.

Captain Richard C Johnson, MNI
Honorary Secretary, Queensland Branch

Photographs below:

