

WISTA Australia's Remarkable Contributions to Diversity and Inclusion in 2024

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Pictured: WISTA Members at a "Welcome to leadership mastery for women in maritime" workshop. Photo supplied.

Throughout 2024, WISTA Australia has emerged as a powerful advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the maritime and logistics industries. With a series of strategic initiatives, events, and collaborations, WISTA has fostered an inclusive community, addressing the underrepresentation of women and providing networking, leadership, and career development opportunities. Through impactful actions, the organisation continues to empower women, creating new pathways for them to thrive in a traditionally male-dominated sector. This article highlights the key milestones and initiatives that have defined WISTA Australia's year of progress in 2024.

International Women's Day (IWD) – A Kickoff to the Year's Advocacy

WISTA's International Women's Day events in 2024 set a powerful tone for the organisation's ongoing advocacy. Notable among these was

the "Chartering a Course for Maritime Equality" event in Western Australia, sponsored by MMA Offshore. This event featured a dynamic panel of industry-leading women, sharing their insights and inspiring others to pursue careers in maritime. Additionally, WISTA co-hosted the International Day for Women in Maritime with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). This online and in-person event attracted over 230 attendees and provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities women face in the maritime industry.

Showcasing Women's Leadership: Panel Events and Advocacy

WISTA's commitment to elevating women's voices was exemplified through the engaging panel discussions held across Australia. The IWD panel event in Western Australia brought together leading women from various maritime sectors, providing a platform for them to discuss their experiences and advocate for greater inclusion. This event,

alongside others, demonstrated WISTA's determination to create spaces where women's contributions to maritime are not only celebrated but also recognised as critical to the industry's progress. By offering such platforms, WISTA continues to amplify the impact of women in leadership roles.

Innovative, Hands-On Learning Opportunities for Members

WISTA members also participated in innovative and hands-on learning experiences, such as the HR Wallingford Ship Simulator evening in Fremantle. This event allowed members to experience the complexities of operating maritime vessels, fostering a deeper understanding of the skills required for seafaring careers. These types of events provide valuable, immersive experiences that enhance members' technical knowledge and encourage greater appreciation for the maritime industry's practical challenges. By offering members real-world maritime experiences, WISTA helps develop their skills while also making the learning process enjoyable and memorable.

Regional Collaboration: Queensland's WILpower Cadetship Program

WISTA Queensland continued to lead regional initiatives, with one standout example being a tour of Patrick Terminals at the Port of Brisbane. This tour gave members a firsthand look at the WILpower Cadetship Program, which is designed to equip women with the skills needed for operational management roles. By connecting women with career development opportunities like these, WISTA ensures that members have access to essential training and networking resources to advance in the maritime and logistics sectors. This event underscores WISTA's commitment to empowering women at every stage of their careers.

Celebrating Women's Support: WISTA QLD Networking Event

A key aspect of WISTA's success lies in the support it receives from allies and advocates within and outside the industry. WISTA Queensland recognised this by hosting a networking event in Brisbane, where members were encouraged to bring an ally or advocate to celebrate their contributions. The