

event brought together colleagues, family members, and industry professionals, all enjoying an evening of networking while overlooking the iconic Story Bridge. This gathering not only celebrated WISTA's allies but also highlighted the importance of fostering relationships that strengthen the overall mission of diversity and inclusion in maritime.

WISTA's National Presence and Regional Outreach

Across Australia, WISTA's regional chapters have cultivated a sense of unity and collaboration among members. In New South Wales, WISTA hosted a successful panel discussion with Shipping Australia Limited and organised monthly breakfast gatherings, fostering ongoing engagement among members. Meanwhile, the Tasmanian chapter took a creative approach, launching six events throughout the year, including the popular Nautical Pottery Party and a tour aboard the MV Investigator. These events were well-received, helping build a strong local presence and attracting new members. WISTA's national reach continues to create valuable networking and professional development opportunities across the country.

Innovative Networking: WISTA's Christmas in July Event

WISTA's efforts to promote cross-generational collaboration were highlighted during its Christmas in July event. This event brought together industry professionals from all stages of their careers, fostering a sense of community and encouraging mentorship. Through partnerships with key organisations like Swire Shipping, Braemar, and P&O, WISTA ensures that diversity remains a central theme within maritime's future. By connecting seasoned professionals with emerging talent, WISTA supports an inclusive environment where everyone has the opportunity to grow and thrive. The Christmas in July event also showcased WISTA's commitment to strengthening industry partnerships and fostering future collaborations.

Hands-On Learning and Networking: WISTA QLD at Patrick's Terminal

WISTA Queensland's tour of Patrick's Terminal at the Port of Brisbane was another highlight of the year, showcasing



Pictured: WISTA members touring Patrick Terminals at the Port of Brisbane. Photo: supplied.

the organisation's dedication to providing its members with practical knowledge. During the visit, attendees had the opportunity to explore the port's operations and gain insights into the WILpower Cadetship Program. This hands-on experience allowed members to deepen their understanding of the logistics industry while engaging with fellow professionals. By focusing on real-world applications, WISTA ensures that its members have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the maritime sector, while also building valuable connections within the industry.

Fostering Inclusivity: WISTA's National AGM Events

WISTA's Annual General Meetings (AGMs) across all states played a crucial role in connecting members from different regions, providing a valuable opportunity to network, share ideas, and collaborate on key initiatives. These events also served as a platform to recognise the contributions of members and celebrate the progress made toward advancing diversity and inclusion in the maritime industry. The 2024 AGM events were particularly impactful, offering members a chance to engage with key industry leaders and discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Through these gatherings, WISTA continues to strengthen its position as a leading advocate for DEI.

Building Strong Alliances: Partnerships with Key Industry Players

WISTA's expansion of partnerships with leading industry players like Swire Shipping, Braemar, and P&O has further bolstered its efforts to promote diversity and inclusion. These partnerships not only provide financial support but also offer members unique opportunities for career development and networking. By working with these influential organisations, WISTA ensures that its mission reaches a wider audience and has a more significant impact on the industry. These collaborations are essential for driving the changes needed to create a more inclusive maritime and logistics sector, where women's voices and contributions are recognised and celebrated.

Preparing for the Future: WISTA's Upcoming Initiatives

Looking ahead, WISTA continues to plan events that will push the boundaries of what's possible in terms of inclusivity and innovation within the maritime sector. Upcoming events like the Svitzer tug tour and the Shipping Sustainability Series in 2025 will explore crucial topics such as environmental responsibility and the role of women in shaping the future of shipping. These initiatives will provide WISTA members with opportunities to engage in important conversations and take part in hands-on experiences, ensuring that the organisation remains at the forefront of driving change and fostering a diverse, sustainable maritime industry.

Conclusion: WISTA's Continued Commitment to DEI

In 2024, WISTA Australia has made significant strides toward advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the maritime and logistics sectors. Through a variety of events, initiatives, and strategic partnerships, WISTA has empowered women across Australia, providing them with opportunities to grow personally and professionally. As the organisation continues to expand its reach and impact, it remains steadfast in its commitment to creating a more inclusive and diverse maritime industry. WISTA's work in 2024 has set a strong foundation for the years ahead, ensuring that women will continue to play a central role in shaping the future of shipping and trade. ▲