

20th Meeting of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

Empowering Women in Hydrography

SWPHC Report



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South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission



SWPHC Empowering women in hydrography in the Pacific network

- SWPHC CL04_2022 invited women to join the SWP WH network
- To date 55 women joined the network
- Based in Australia, NZ, Tonga, Niue, Fiji, France, UK and US
- Currently working for national Hydrographic Offices, marine safety authorities, Navies, Government science organisations, industry, academia or studying hydrography



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Why start a network

• What women want from the network:

- *Learn from others*
- *Inspiration*
- *Learn about other cultures*
- *Learn about other aspects of hydrography*
- *Balancing family commitments and offshore work*
- *Ways of building male allies to support women*
- *Connection to other women (not many local role models)*
- *Share opportunities and experiences*
- *Normalising females in STEM – stop having to count how many women....*
- *Develop the next generation of female hydrographic leaders*
- *Not being the automatic “secretary”*
- *Support and advice for working in male dominated workforces*

What women can give to the network:

- *Share their stories to help others learn about career pathways, be a role model, mentor*
- *Inspire others to take on hydrography as a career*
- *Support others starting out in their career*
- *Support on technical challenges*
- *Advice for working parents and caregivers*
- *Links with professional bodies and opportunities they present*
- *Help to break down barriers for development of women*



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This session

- Different roles in Hydrography – Jennifer, Palu, Kathryn
- Benefits to a diverse workforce – Jan
- Pathways into Hydrography – group discussion – *think back to how you discovered hydrography, what inspired you and how can you make that happen for others*



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