



Jeanine Drummond,  
harbour master, Newcastle  
and Yamba, Port Authority  
of New South Wales

# Spotlight on Jeanine Drummond

Sarah Marshall profiles a star of the  
Australian maritime industry

## THIS MONTH WE WANT TO

highlight an exciting career move for one of our industry's most dynamic and industrious leaders. Jeanine Drummond, currently general manager, operations and deputy harbour master in Sydney for the Port Authority of NSW is taking on a new and challenging position as harbour master for Newcastle and Yamba.

"I am excited to be taking on a role that has an incredible amount of variety and challenges both day to day and longer term, as well as an opportunity to provide leadership to a team of talented and professional mariners where we will continue to excel in providing world class port services to our stakeholders," Jeanine told us recently.

Jeanine's career started as a deck officer cadet for ASP Ship Management in 1995. For someone who had not found the academics of classroom learning at school particularly stimulating, Jeanine found her senses and ambition ignited by the world of the maritime industry.

She suddenly felt she had a reason to be dedicated and hardworking and then threw herself into the shipping industry with the greatest of enthusiasm.

This did not go unnoticed by those around her and she quickly progressed to master level and found herself working at Teekay Shipping. There she worked on product tankers, crude oil tankers and floating production, storage and offtake facilities. Her time at Teekay allowed her to see the world and get a taste for leadership. As a 29-year-old master, she was revealing herself to have an outstanding talent and had developed strong confidence in her own ability. Jeanine has some interesting views on leadership. "I like to see groups of individuals working together to challenge ideas, suggestions and concepts through consultation and discussion so as to bring about the best possible results," she told this column. "This is where true diversity and inclusion in a team's thinking can bring much success."

Jeanine continued in master roles for the following six years, including time spent as a tug master for Svitzer at Gladstone. Never one to allow conventions to hold her back, she was a pioneer in the space of balancing work and family responsibilities and chose roles that would provide her the flexibility she needed as well as the challenge and opportunity to grow and develop. Her

role at Caltex back in Sydney as marine manager, supply, allowed her to consolidate much of her knowledge to provide subject matter expertise in the area of shipping and associated marine activities. She enjoyed ensuring there were robust management systems and processes in place to deliver safe and reliable shipping operations.

Jeanine joined the Port Authority of New South Wales in 2016. She has since led the vessel traffic services section, as well as port operations, pilot transfer services, and compliance and planning. Her strong dedication to modern leadership principles, true consultation with staff and her genuine passion for ensuring a safe and efficient port have led her to be offered the position of harbour master for Newcastle and Yamba.

When asked how she reflects on her career, Jeanine said her career "has provided me with great personal engagement and satisfaction in the roles I have had".

"The diversity in my career paths is what I have enjoyed most, and I also tend to call on these experiences from the differing maritime sectors when considering issues at hand and looking at the future ahead of us."

A passionate mariner, Jeanine's exploits have not been limited to the workplace. Jeanine has been heavily involved in sailing and other recreational on-water pursuits. Jeanine spoke of her love of sailing, saying, "I have enjoyed learning to sail competitively, most of this has been on Farr 30s (a yacht class) or similar".

"In particular, I love being part of the wider maritime community through volunteering with our local sailing club and encouraging the junior sailing, mostly due to spending a large portion of our weekend at the club with our children," Jeanine said. "You can often see me on a start boat, or a response boat and I am now an old hand at running a club canteen."

She has also been active in the local branch of The Nautical Institute since 2011. In this capacity she has been driven to support fellow females in the field and has helped to establish Women in Maritime, which can be followed on Instagram @women.in.maritime. It aims to inspire and unite women in the industry.

This woman is one to watch and it will be wonderful to see her settle into her new position with the same gusto, professionalism and inspirational leadership to which she has applied to all her previous roles in the industry. ■