



► **LET ME TAKE A SELFIE:** (From left) Debbie King, Debra Hampton, Catherine Mancuso — who flew in from the US for the event — Rosella Carranante and Nadia Mirza.
Photos: CONTRIBUTED

Singapore girls make early start to festive season with lively lunch

It seems like yesterday when some of Singapore's finest shipping industry females were getting into the festive spirit by posing in fake moustaches and novelty headgear in a pop-up photo booth.

Twelve months on and they are back. The organisers of this year's "ladies in shipping and trading Xmas lunch" sent out 260 invitations in October to both the home crowd and several international invitees.

The invites were snapped up on a first-come, first-served basis in just two weeks and a waiting list was opened.

The team behind the event was made up of Kate Brady from Clarkson's dry cargo department, BP's Nicci Barry, Lynette Chng from Eastern Pacific Shipping, Clarkson Tankers' Debra Hampton and Susie Wallace of the wonderfully entitled "Shipping Wives And Girlfriends", or "Swag".

But they say it is becoming an increasing struggle to find a venue both big enough to host the event and one they can return to. What do they mean?

Now in its seventh year, the popular end-of-year party has grown from its first tentative outing when just 30 attended.

"Just look at us now!" said one of the diehards.

This year, the crowd revisited Amarone, one of the restaurants that had hosted the event before.

One attendee said: "The wine flowed freely and the food was awesome, which I'm sure is a challenge for any restaurant with 100+ females involved."

The throng then headed out to a shipping favourite, Beaujolais, where the free flow continued, the music fired up and the party got into full swing.



► **ORGANISING COMMITTEE:** (From left) Susie Wallace, Lynette Chng, Debra Hampton, Kate Brady and Nicci Barry.



► **HAPPY HEADS:** (From left) Clarkson's Platou Futures colleagues Kelly Teoh, Joelle Zhang and Ziyi Jia.

Sadly, none of the industry's "Aussie ladies" made the party this year, something they plan to put right at the next event.

But, in contrast, the organisers want to give a special mention to Catherine Mancuso of maritime-technology provider Q88.com.

She flew in from the US for the event as she loved attend-

ing it so much when she lived in Singapore. Rumour has it that Mancuso also had to do some real work while in town — but the team took the fly-by as a compliment.

They send some early season's greetings to all in the industry and, with an eye on the main event, one said: "Roll on 2016!"



► **MAKING IT PAY:** Guests (above and below) use the new electronic bidding system for the live pledge.



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