



WOMEN IN SPACE
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND



Women in Space Aotearoa New Zealand

UN Space4Women Expert Meeting

30 October to 3 November 2023

Kate Breach

President

Women in Space Aotearoa New Zealand

Kate Breach

Aerospace engineer, space sector consultant



Outline

- The Short Story: Women in Space Aotearoa New Zealand (WISANZ)
- Aotearoa New Zealand: a rapid space sector journey
- New Space Sector, Old Space Sector Gender Diversity Story
- WISANZ – Launch Story
- Initiatives & Impact
- Challenges

The Short Story: WISANZ

Women in Space Aotearoa New Zealand (WISANZ) is a not-for-profit professional network established in October 2021 by women working in the New Zealand space sector.

WISANZ aims to support and enable women and gender minorities working in the New Zealand space sector, and those who want to join the sector.

Aotearoa New Zealand: A Rapid Space Sector Journey

- Commercially driven 'New Space' sector
- 2016: New Zealand Space Agency established
- 2017: Outer Space and High-Altitude Activities Act
- Jan 2018: Rocket Lab
 - First successful commercial orbital launch



Aotearoa New Zealand: A Rapid Space Sector Journey



Rocket Lab:

- 38 launches from NZ, 170+ satellites
- 2022: 4th most space launches from any one country
- First launch from NZ to the Moon



Credit: Rocket Lab

Aotearoa New Zealand: A Rapid Space Sector Journey



- New Zealand Space Sector rapid development



Credit: Dawn Aerospace

New Space Sector, Old Space Sector Gender Diversity Story

Globally:

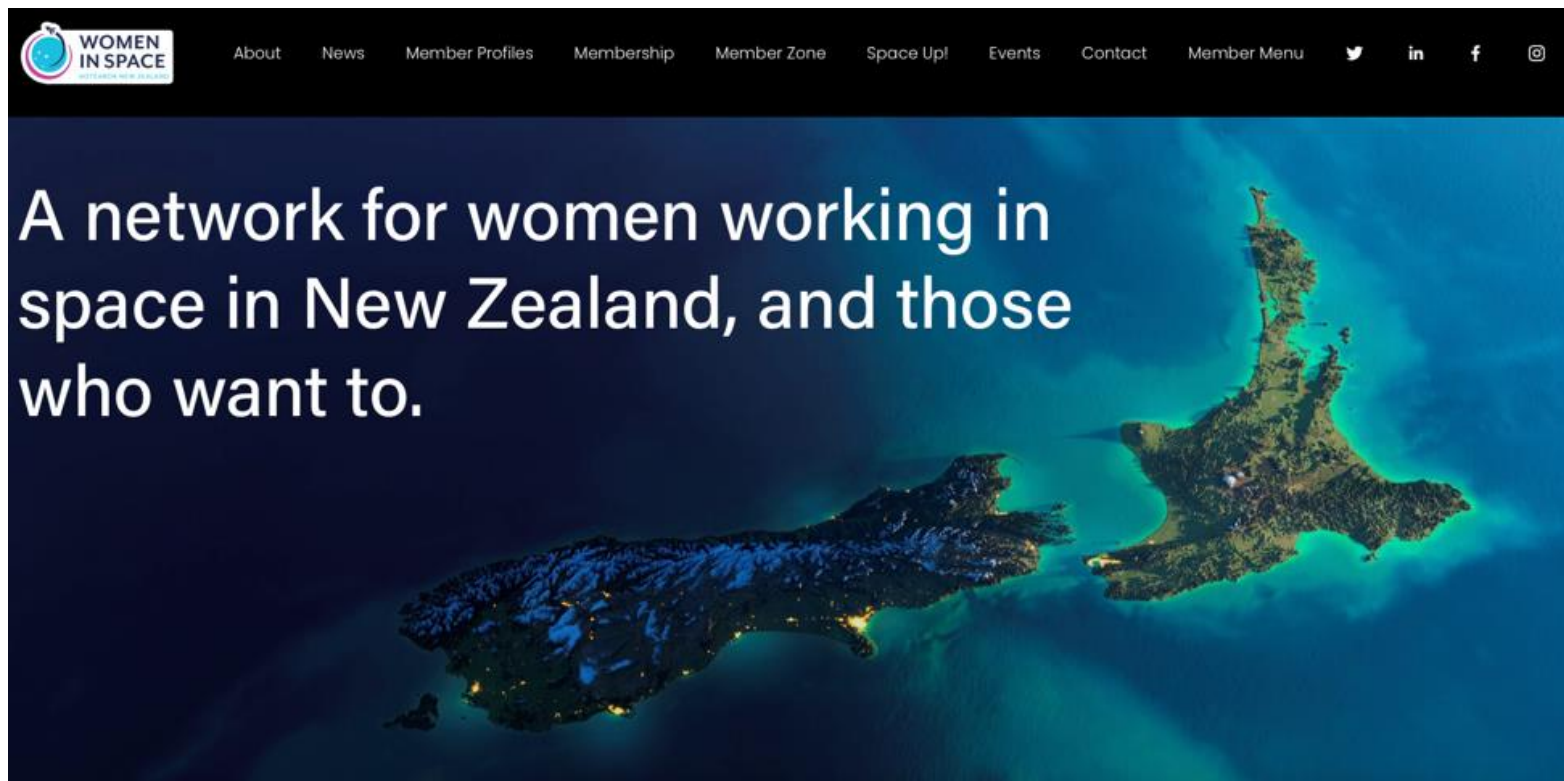
- Women = 20-22% of global space sector workforce across all roles, even less for technical roles – unchanged over 30 years.

New Zealand:

- **Women = less than 14% of technical roles** in NZ space companies
- Representation of women **dramatically reduces with seniority level**
- Female students = **approx. 15%** of space sector technical pipeline undergraduate degree programmes – **no signs of improvement**

WISANZ: Launch Story

- 4 October 2021: World Space Week - ‘Celebrating Women in Space’
 - 20 member ‘Founding Group’ across industry, academia, government

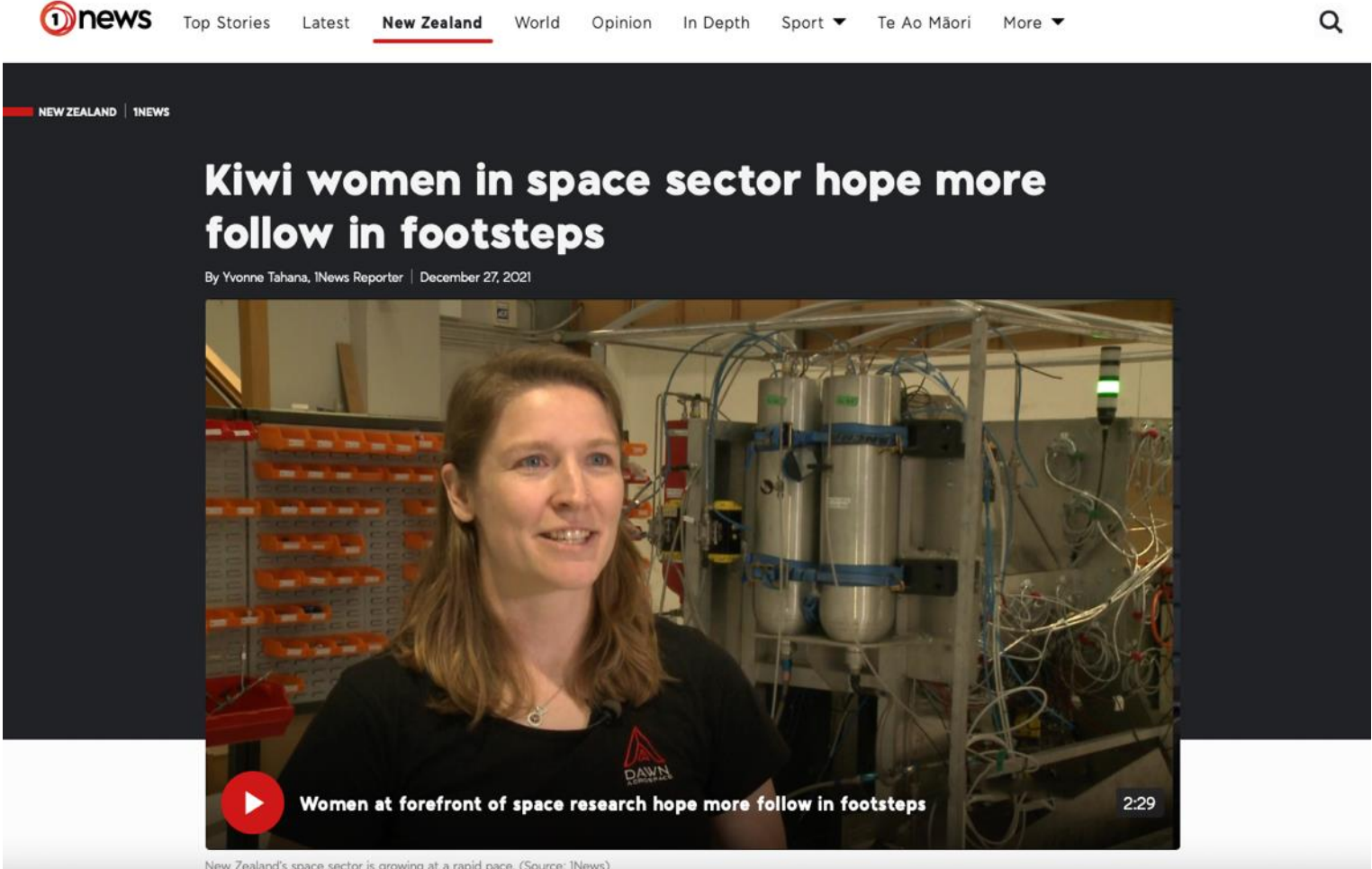


www.womeninspace.co.nz

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WISANZ: Launch Story

- The Response:
 - Media
 - 200+ sign up in 2 weeks
 - Significant interest from high school girls.



1 news Top Stories Latest New Zealand World Opinion In Depth Sport ▼ Te Ao Māori More ▼

NEW ZEALAND | 1NEWS

Kiwi women in space sector hope more follow in footsteps

By Yvonne Tahana, 1News Reporter | December 27, 2021

Women at forefront of space research hope more follow in footsteps 2:29

New Zealand's space sector is growing at a rapid pace. (Source: 1News)

WISANZ: Launch Story

- May 2022: Legal entity established as Incorporated Society
- Financial membership
 - Professional
 - Tertiary Student
- Committee of up to 10 makes decisions for the network, elected annually

Initiatives & Impact

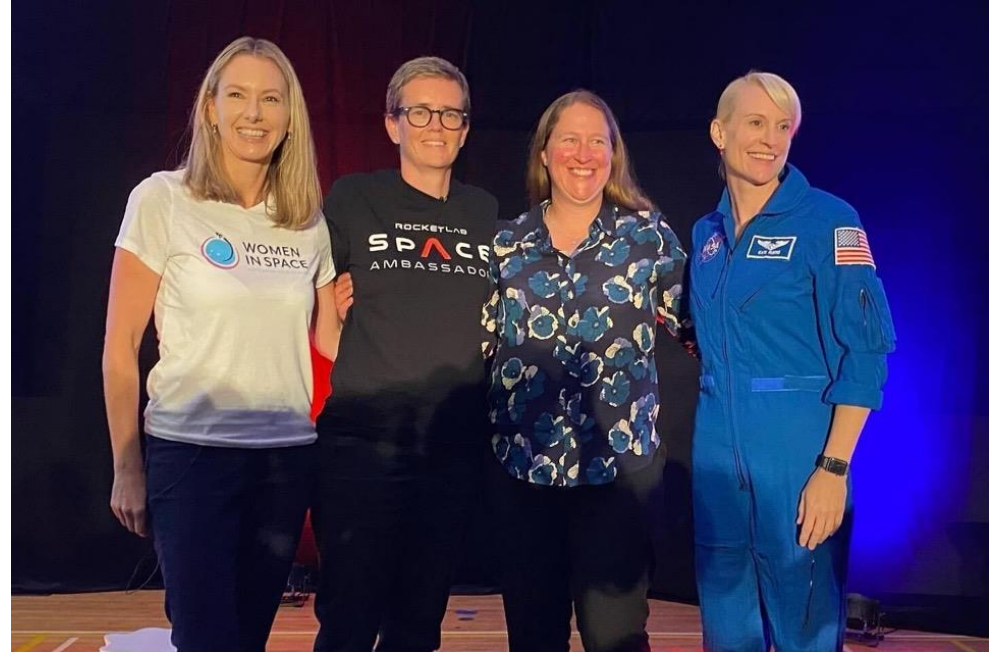
- Supportive Community (Member networking)



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Initiatives & Impact

- Supportive Community (Member networking)
- Inspiring the next generation (Outreach)
 - Pathways to Space Event Series
 - Space Up! High School Club

Pathways to Space Event Series

Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington – Oct/Nov 2022



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Pathways to Space Event Series

Government Ministers' support



Space Up! High School Club



- Free for high school students in New Zealand
- Target members: girls aged 13 to 18
- Focus on showcasing women space role models
- 260+ student members & 30+ high school teachers

Initiatives



- Supportive Community (Member networking)
- Inspiring the next generation (Outreach)
 - Pathways to Space Event Series
 - Space Up! High School Club
- **Collective Voice (Sector & Government engagement)**
 - Sector events
 - Government policy consultation



New Zealand Aerospace Summit 2022:
2022 Women in Space panel



New Zealand Aerospace Summit 2023:
Next Generation Panel

Aotearoa New Zealand Aerospace Strategy 2023-2030

Te Rautaki Ātea-ā-rangi o Aotearoa 2023-2030

JULY 2023



“The Government has a key role to play in identifying and supporting greater participation for those under-represented in the sector. Work is also needed to **address barriers to inclusion** for young people, **women**, Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled people and LGBTQIA+/Takatāpui/ MVPFAFF+ along the education to employment pipeline.

...

We will focus on:

...

- **Encouraging diversity and inclusion** for the sector for Māori, Pacific, **women** and other under-represented communities in aerospace education, training and the workforce, **including by supporting initiatives to create a more diverse, safe and welcoming sector**“



Aotearoa New Zealand Aerospace Strategy launch event, July 2023

Challenges

- Funding
- Volunteer Committee – time poor!
- Geographically spread national membership
- Member career level imbalance for mentoring

Thank you!



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info@womeninspace.co.nz | www.womeninspace.co.nz



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