



**STIMELA**

GROUP



# *Cargo Surveying* *A Woman's Perspective*

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

BRUCE LENNON:

- Last year's Forum – request to find a female for the industry
- Other Anecdotes
- Charlotte Martin

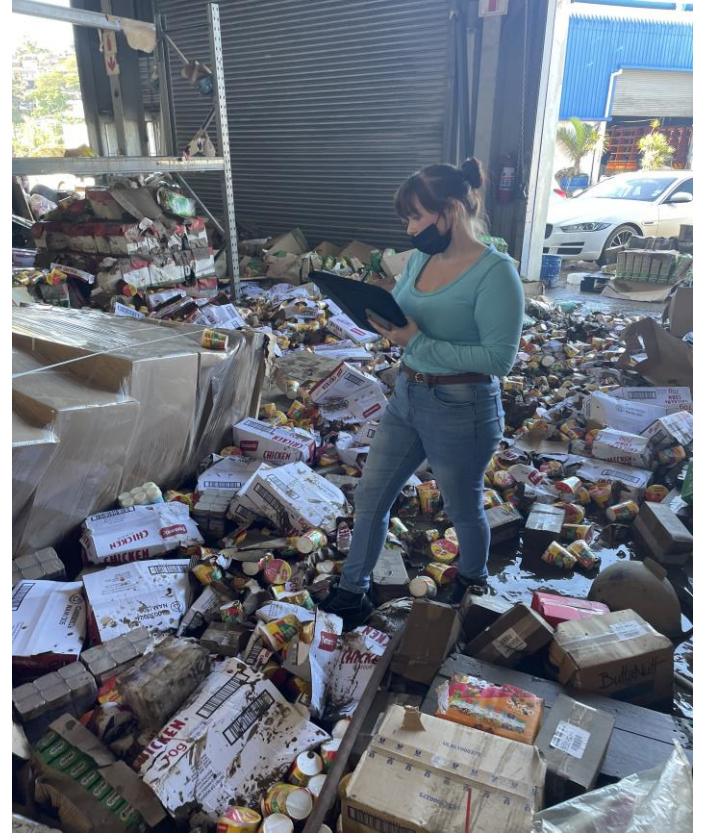


## 2. BACKGROUND

- I have been working since the age of 14.
- I have held a variety of jobs ranging from administration to bartending, in South Africa as well as overseas.
- Upon my return to South Africa due to Covid-19, I discovered that jobs were in high demand and low availability.



- I joined Stimela Marine & General shortly after my return and started out as an Administrator.
- After a month, I was made permanent and promoted to Surveyor.



### 3. EXPERIENCES

- The nerves will always be there when going out – the trick is to understand why and prepare yourself.
- You can't be scared. Ask those questions, climb that ladder, get your hands dirty. No-one is going to give you appraisal/gold medal unless you've earned it.
- Best way to prepare is to know where and why you're going somewhere. Have your checklists, goals and questions ready.



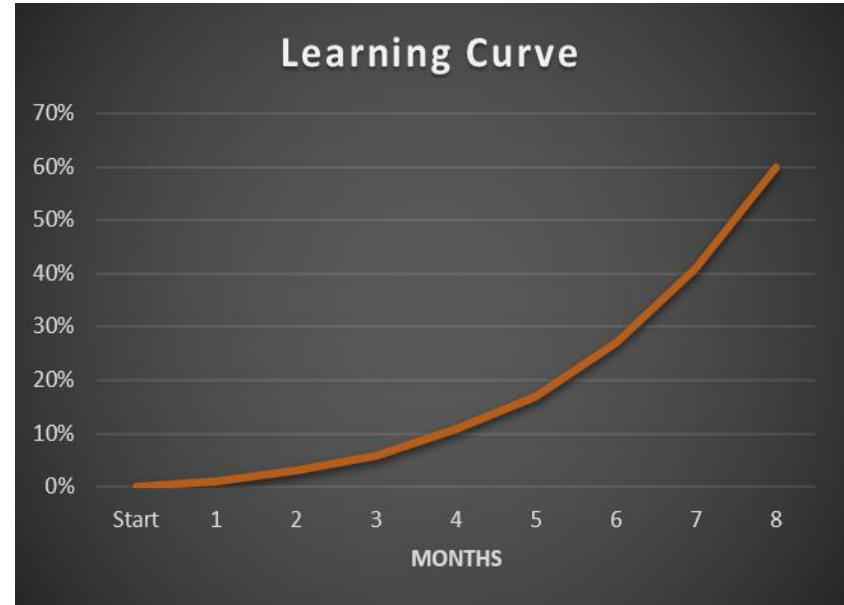
- My first Survey – the “sweet” start: inspecting oranges in my orange “dress” of a reflective vest.
- I have inspected many types of cargo, and investigated many matters now.
- Finding the right shoe! PPE is a very important factor and finding it all in my size can be a challenge!





## 4. CHALLENGES

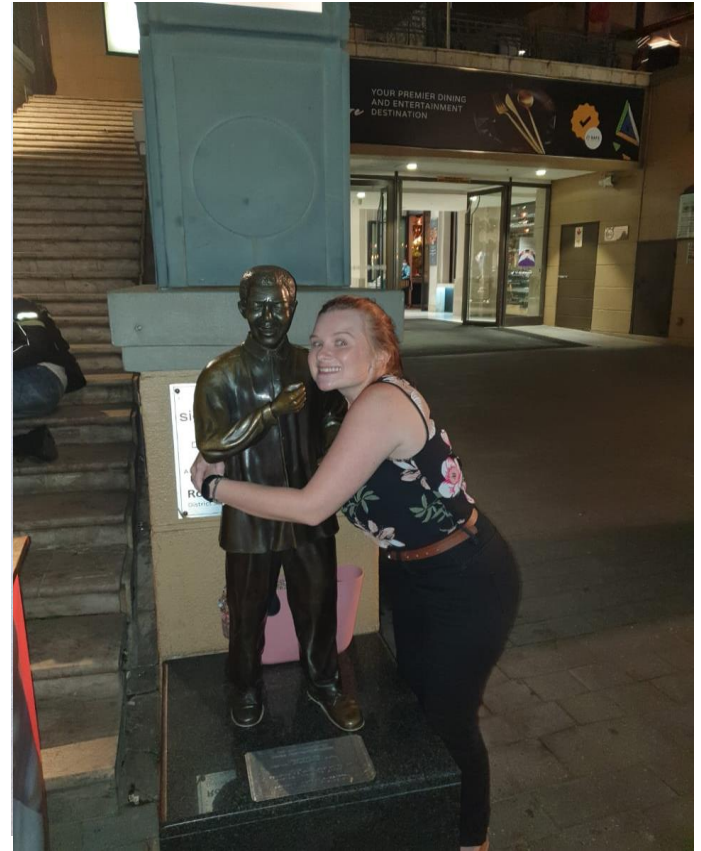
- When I started at Stimela, there was a lot happening and time for “sit-down” training was limited.
- I had to adapt, rise to the challenge and so I began to “learn on the job”.
- The rate at which I had to observe, learn, understand and implement was exponential and I very quickly learnt how to “swim in the deep end”.



## CHALLENGES (Continued)

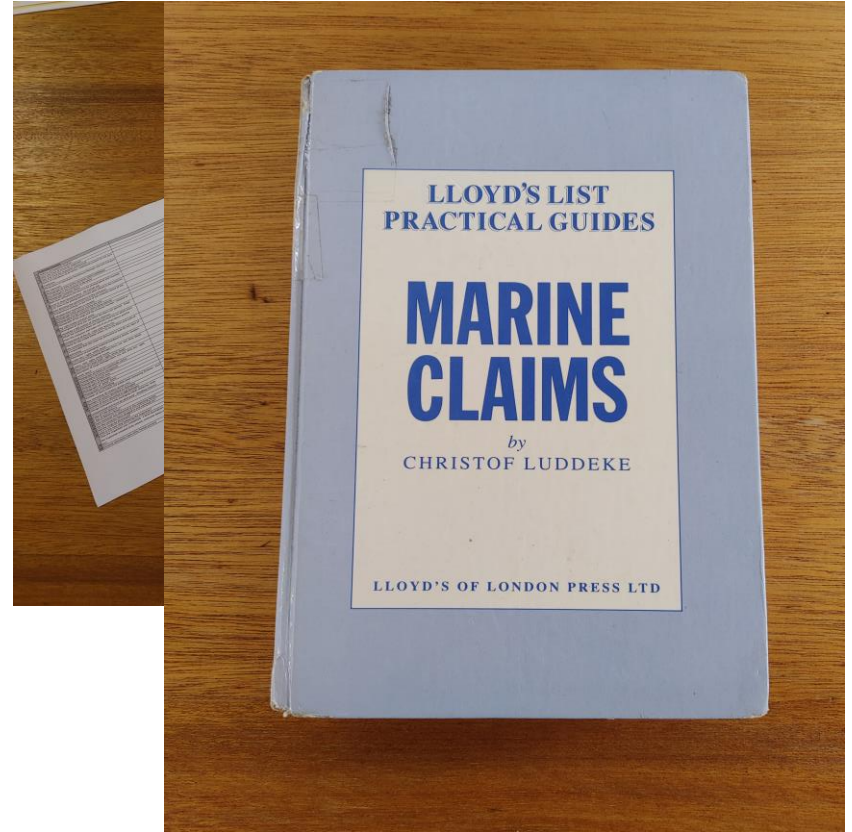
### - What I have, do and will face

- So much PPE does not cater to the female body.
- Gender Inequality – this is an extremely male-dominated industry
- Managing the pressure
- Finding Balance.



## 5. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- I have earned my keep here at Stimela by going the extra mile, putting in the effort and asserting my mind to the task.
- I study our checklists, procedures and documentation with a keen eye.
- Continuous Professional Development



## 6. ”SAME BUT DIFFERENT.”

We always have a plan of action before going out on a Survey.

I have noted a few differences to what others have experienced on inspections as opposed to my own:

- Most people are shocked or in awe when they see a woman Surveyor as it is not a norm.
- Many people tend to think that I will just stand there, take notes and leave – I think it’s because they either believe I am not capable or willing to “get dirty”.



## The Port of Durban:

- The first time I went to the Port of Durban was to inspect a machine.
- There are a lot of moving parts I was warned to keep an eye out for.
- When we walked onto the loading dock, all the moving parts stopped and all I hear is Lance muttering under his breath – “why doesn’t this happen when I’m here?”.



## Container Inspection:

- We attended to an inspection of a Container that was infested with worms, mould and smelled so bad, not even the workers would go in.
- When Lance jumped up into the Container, no-one batted an eyelid.
- When I jumped in, everyone was in shock and someone even asked me: “Are you actually going in there?”



## Kwazulu Natal's Flood Crisis

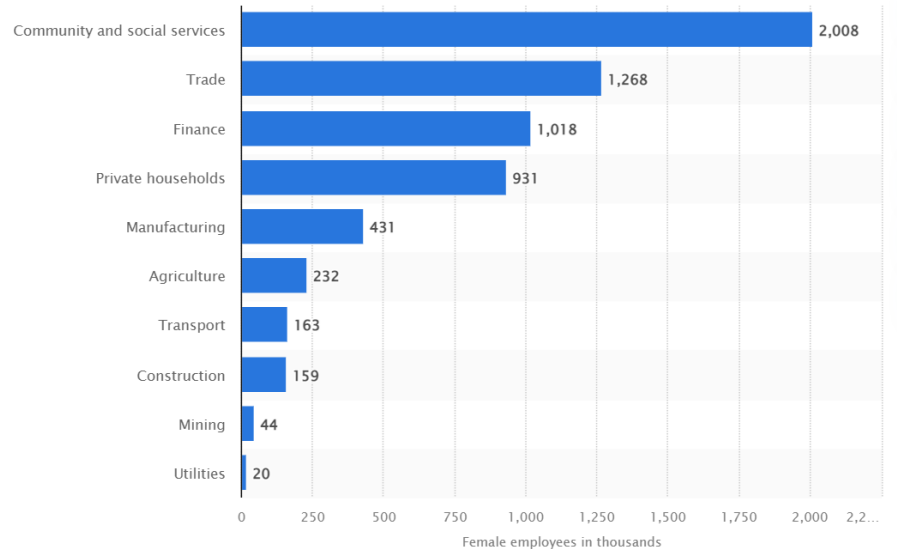
During Easter, between 8 April 2022 and 11 April 2022, our province was savaged by severe flooding, causing damage to:

- Homes
- Businesses
- Warehouses
- The Port of Durban
- Container Yards



## 8. WOMEN IN THE INDUSTRY

- **Women Seafarers:**  
The total percentage of female seafarers is only 2% according to the International Maritime Organization, which is 24,000 women seafarers out of a total global workforce of 1.5 million.
- **Women in Transport:**  
There are only approximately 163 000 female transporters in South Africa according to Statista
- **Women in Marine Insurance:**  
TBC
- **Women in Cargo Surveying:**  
TBC



Number of female employees in South Africa in Q4 2021, by industry



## 7. MY PASSION FOR CARGO SURVEYING

This is a pretty tough industry and not an easy job. I have been asked why I choose to stay in this industry many times.

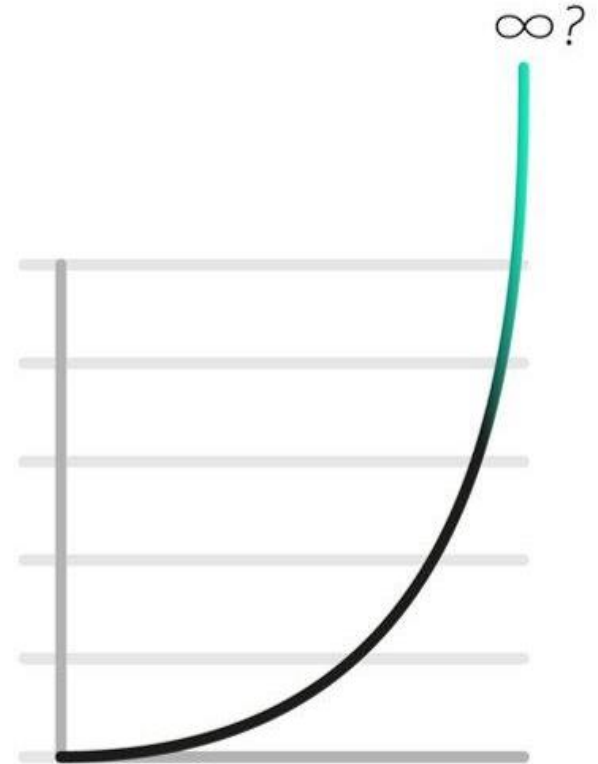
I stay because:

- I enjoy what I do – every Survey is different, no matter the similarities to others so every day is a challenge.
- What I do makes a difference.
- My people, my Team.



## 7. CONCLUSION

- I started off at an Administrator and within 8 short months, I have been promoted twice and now hold the Title of “Senior Surveyor”.
- I manage all our Administration, conduct my own surveys, draft Reports and assist our other Surveyors with their inspections and Reports.
- As far as I have come in this short space of time, I have plans to go further.



***Today I think it's an advantage to be a woman  
as I'm easy to recognise among the leaders of  
my generation.***

Lena Göthberg

Host and Producer of Shipping Podcast





# THANK YOU

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