

DUYFKEN UPDATE: Let's hear from a few Duyfken volunteers



Duyfken volunteers, from left to right; Vic Hoisington, Bob Meredith, Julie Fedele and David Bowden

WE ASKED four volunteers what it is about Duyfken (Little Dove) that is special to them.

Vic Hoisington, who often skippers the ship, answered with his own question:

“What is it about a thousand bits of shaped wood, fastened together with dowels and rivets, about spars held up by ropes of natural fibre, about billowing sails of hand-stitched flax and the smell of linseed oil and Stockholm tar or the pressure of wind on sail and water on rudder as it is felt

through the tug of the whipstaff as you steer the Duyfken through a quartering sea? It is the magic of Replica Tall Ships and something that should be experienced by anyone with any curiosity about the ways of ships, sailors and the sea.”

Bob Meredith became involved just after the ship's

return from Holland. He started with casual ship-keeping and comments,

“I joined the band of loyal and dedicated guides; then helped with maintenance, and with the smell of tar in the nostrils and under the finger nails - it was far too late to turn back.”

Julie Fedele first met

Duyfken in 2006 when she joined the crew for her first ever sail, down the NSW coast. It was love at first sight.

“There is so much to love about Duyfken and being a part of her family: whether it be sharing her salty stories with curious visitors; ship-keeping overnight in a swinging hammock made of canvas; helping out with maintenance - a scraper or tarry brush in hand; or, (and the best feeling of all), climbing the rig to unfurl the fore topsail as we head out into the waves. There is [nothing] like Duyfken; she is one of a kind, that's for sure. I am head over heels in love with the 'Dove'. Every time I step aboard, I can feel her smiling at me, as if to say, 'Hi Julie, welcome back!' And it feels just like coming home...”

David Bowden's father is a master mariner and he inherited the love of all things

ocean: “You might say I need a regular salt-water fix. Duyfken is a must do ‘bucket list’ adventure for any sailor. She is a true working replica ship museum of a 400-year-old Dutch East Indiaman. You have the rare opportunity to live history to learn it! (It's fun too).”

So *Have a Go News* readers, why not head down to the “Little Dove” for a visit and learn more! It may ignite a passion within you.

There are many opportunities for you to have a lot of fun with tour guiding, maintenance, ship keeping and of course sailing.

Visit the website for all information at www.duyfken.com. You can also sign up online as a Friend of Duyfken and volunteer. The man to talk to is Bill Porter on 0406 484 269 or you can email him at volunteers@duyfken.com or Mark on 0417 239 987 marketing@duyfken.com