

Why volunteers love the 'Little Dove' - Duyfken



Left; The Little Dove in dry dock
Above left; Volunteers Stewart Jackson and Gail Thornton

THIS month while the Duyfken has a little 'make-over', in yachting terms an anti-foul and modest re-fit (see above photo), we thought readers may like to hear from a few vollies and why they got involved. Here's what Gail Thornton told us.

"I was one of many who were there to welcome Duyfken back to Fremantle. I became a 'Friend' on-line a month prior due to a real interest in tall ships. After stepping on board the first time, I was totally hooked. The sight, the smell, the feel, the history. As a guide, I enjoy sharing her with visitors. As an overnight shipkeeper, with the gentle rocking of my hammock, the lap-lapping of the ocean and the smell of timber, tar and linseed oil, I sleep well. Now, since becoming a crew member I help set sails and helm her, just as they did over 400 years ago. It's all such an amazing experience. It's well known volunteering can help boost your self-confidence, self-esteem and life satisfaction, but for me it also keeps me physically and mentally healthy. You learn new skills, meet new people and at the same time it gives you a sense of pride and identity. So do it, help yourself and change your life!"

Another fellow we spoke to has loved the Little Dove for many years, here's what Stewart Jackson thinks.

"I first saw Duyfken when she was moored outside the old Swan Brewery some 10 years ago. When she returned home from the East Coast last September, I was all too eager to see her again and got out to be a part of the welcome home flotilla, aboard a friend's boat. Then, a couple

of months ago, I picked up *Have a Go News* and discovered that Duyfken is looking for new volunteers. "Bingo! That's for me," I thought, and I quickly became a Friend of the Duyfken. In the two short months since becoming a member, I have already volunteered as a shipkeeper, helped out with maintenance, started training as a crew member for day sails, and even joined the Social Subcommittee. I love being a

part of the Duyfken community. I have met some great people and hopefully made some lasting friendships. So come on readers, 'have a go' - Join the Friends of Duyfken just like I did. You never know what adventures you might get up to!"

What more can we say readers. *Have a Go News* is supporting the Duyfken, why don't you? For more information go to www.duyfken.com

WIN WIN WIN

To be in the draw to win one of three double vouchers for a tour of the Duyfken valued at \$20 each then email win@haveagonews.com.au or simply send an envelope to Duyfken Tour - C/- Have a Go News - PO Box 1042, West Leederville 6901. Please include your name, address and phone number on the reverse side. Only over 45s eligible and competition closes 30/06/13.