

Duyfken heads up river



Duyfken up river in 2006

IN EARLY October, Duyfken will return to the Swan River. She was last there back in 2006 prior to the start of her voyage to commemorate the 400th anniversary of her namesake, making landfall on the west side of Cape York Peninsula.

As readers will recall, she made the first recorded landing of a European vessel in Australia.

Duyfken went on to spend five years on the east coast of Australia before completing her circumnavigation when she returned to Fremantle in 2012.

It's nice to imagine that Willem de Vlamingh, who named the Swan River, would have liked to have taken one of his three ships up the river rather than having to make the voyage in one of his ship's boats.

Unfortunately in 1697 there was the issue of a rock bar across the mouth of the Swan that was later removed by C Y O'Connor when he built Fremantle Harbour.

Although the bar has gone, today there is the equally annoying issue of three bridges that impede the entrance for Duyfken.

Consequently it is a considerable logistical and expensive exercise to move Duyfken into the river.

First the ship will be moved to the Sardine Wharf in the Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour where the standing rigging will be let go prior to her masts being removed by a crane. They will then be inspected and oiled before being transported by flat bed truck to Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club in Peppermint Grove where they will be re-stepped. Prior to doing so, as per the tradition of sailing ships, a coin with the date 2014 will be placed under the step of each mast to record the year that mast was last stepped. The placing of

a coin is sometimes thought to be to encourage good luck but was actually simply just good ship management.

The ship will then move to her Swan River berth at the Mounts Bay Sailing Club in Crawley Bay for the months

of October, November and December.

The Foundation is delighted to be able to form a close relationship with the MBSC who have excellent facilities for volunteers, school groups and corporate visitors.

The club also has ample parking.

While in the Swan River, the ship will carry on her core educational work with schools but will also carry out regular day sails for the general public.

It will be a new experience for the volunteers who will be much more involved with sailing and corporate work than during the ship's time at Fremantle, which is more centred on visitation from the general public.

The Foundation also is hopeful that her move up river will encourage new volunteers (and *Have a Go News* readers) to sign up to work on the ship.

It may be that Fremantle is too far away for some but being nearer to Perth and with copious parking, it may be easier for some to volunteer.

Or, you may simply like to be involved while the ship is at MBSC and take leave when she returns to Fremantle later in the summer.

The Foundation is also pressing ahead with firming up the ship's mid to long term program and exciting ventures are in the wind – but more of that in later editions of *Have a Go News*.

John Longley AM CitWA
Chair of Duyfken
1606 Foundation