



Another Duyfken volunteer tells his story



Left to right; David arrives for his ship keeping duties - setting up his bed for an overnight stay.

"HI MY name is David Bowden and I am proud to say I have formed a strong association with the Duyfken since her September 2012 home-coming.

My interest in tall ships started in the mid 70s while working as a volunteer diver for the WA Maritime museum - looking at an excavation site of a ship of the Duyfken period - and little did I know then, that I would have the opportunity to sail one day on a true replica ship, the Duyfken.

While at the wharf in Fremantle Harbour on that beautiful sunny day for her home-coming, I was handed a brochure looking for people to assist with the running of the ship following which, I became a volunteer on the Duyfken, guiding the public over the ship in my volunteer issue red Duyfken t-shirt and white hat.

The Duyfken community is amazing.

I was made very welcome and met many people who had been part of the 'dream'

to build the ship.

Though many have grown older since construction began in the mid nineties, with some retired from ship keeping and sleeping on the decks, their enthusiasm and contribution has not waned through time.

Since I became a volunteer, I have taken on the roles of volunteer coordinator, helped with maintenance, participated in ship keeping, learnt to become a crew-member on the day sailing program and more recently,

was invited to become a member of the Board.

As you may have read recently, the ship is about to head up river and her home from October to December will be the Mounts Bay Sailing Club.

Many of you will remember the picturesque site of our beautiful 1600s square rigged sailing ship on the Swan River back in 2006. While moored in the river, during her stay, she will be open for tours and other opportunities.

Before heading up river,

Duyfken will undergo a refit at the Kailis Fremantle Shipyard Yard from 23 September to 3 October.

If you are interested in helping out we need extra hands to assist with one of the major tasks which is to scrape back and re-oil the masts and spars. To do this and facilitate her trip upriver after refit, the ship will be de-rigged and the masts removed to allow the ship to get under the Fremantle Traffic Bridge.

If you'd like to help with the refit, the only pre-requisite will be a safety induction at the boat yard and you must have a pair of steel capped boots.

The work is low impact, with lots of scraping and oiling carried out under the supervision of the ships Bosun.

The Swan River provides a unique opportunity for sailing on smooth water.

It is planned to sail the ship regularly while up river and additional mid-week crew are needed to help sail her.

If you have an interest in sailing, this is an opportunity to live the history.

To be a crew member there is an induction process.

You'll need to be reasonably fit and to be able to haul and heave lines (ropes).

Take it from me, volunteering is a very rewarding experience and you, like many of us have, may fall in love with the Dove.

To find out more and to contact us send your details to info@duyfken.com or feel free to call the office on 0427 160 606.