

Duyfken launches Seniors Sailing Program



Seniors on board the Duyfken

FOR THOSE readers who have been following the fortunes of the good ship *Duyfken* whilst on the Swan River over the summer months, they are pleased to announce an exciting new initiative. Seniors can now join the crew of *Duyfken* for a superb twilight sailing experience on the smooth waters of the Swan. Even though she'll head back to Fremantle for winter, the Dove will return again in October, November and December.

This initiative evolved from discussions that started back in January 2015 between *Duyfken* and the Floreat and districts branch of National Seniors Australia coming to fruition on Thursday 19 February with the inaugural Twilight Sail specifically tailored for seniors.

To get the program rolling, members of the Floreat seniors visited the ship

three weeks before the scheduled sailing date and following that inspection it was full steam ahead. With a wide range of physical activeness, *Duyfken* needed to be able to provide a level of comfort and safety for all guests. By adding seating to the ship for the day, all passengers could be accommodated comfortably.

And so the big day arrived. Provisions were loaded... the crew were ready.

The 18 members and friends from Floreat Seniors ventured down the jetty at Mounts Bay Sailing Club, to be met by the volunteer crew of *Duyfken* with a warm welcome. They were all ably assisted up the gangway with youthful enthusiasm and with a little help from the crew they all stepped safely on to the main deck.

An informative welcome from the captain, Robin Chester followed and there was much humour when crewman Bob explained how to don a life jacket. The eyes said it all.

"We sure hope we don't have to put one of those on!"

Next on the agenda, a tour of the ship that reveals her history and the amazing story of the many voyages made from Holland to the East Indies to load the hold with valuable spices such as nutmeg.

Back on deck, seated and ready for departure, the captain calls to release the lines, the engines spring to life and in a matter of just a few minutes the journey begins... one that will be remembered fondly by all. Oh... and there was the sailing too.

What a delight, as the sails were released and the ship sprang into life as they filled with a freshening sea breeze. *Duyfken* is such an experience under sail. As she heads upriver towards the city of Perth the laughter flows and songs are sung... it is just one of those special moments. The guests complete their voyage and the faces tell it all... they have all had the best time.

Duyfken concludes her Summer of Sail program on Sunday 22 March but fear not, she returns to the river in October. So please book your club or group in for a sail in advance by contacting Peter Bowman at manager@duyfken.com Bookings are essential so that the crew can cater for all.