

Tales from the Duyfken

more than climbing up the foremast to prepare the sails for Dufken's next sailing adventure... no mean feat when you consider that when he's working up near the top of the mast he is 60 feet above the ship's deck!

The story for Bob though doesn't begin around water. For 30 years he lived and worked in rural Western Australia as the manager of a 17,000 acre wheat and sheep farm that was located 50 miles north of Mukinbudin... not much water out that way!

Along the way he played competitive football until he turned 50.

Relocating to Perth in 1987 he took up a role with Curtin University where he spent 10 years as the grounds curator.

It was during the late 90s after a visit or two to Fremantle that he discovered Duyfken under construction. Being very inquisitive he started chatting with the build team. By the time Duyfken returned to Fremantle after her 2002 voyage to Holland for the 400th anniversary of the VOC, Bob was hooked.

He started to read more about the original ship's history and with this new found knowledge it wasn't long before he was invited to

join the volunteer team as a ship guide. From this beginning he joined the maintenance team and then once the local day sail program commenced he joined the sailing crew migrating to the role of climber... a role that involves climbing to high points on the mast to release the sails for sailing.

Today Bob is actively involved in training a new crop of trainee climbers eager to embrace the joy of tall ship sailing from the highest vantage points on the ship.

From all this Bob has developed some great principles to live life by... in his words "if you rest you rust" and "you're never too old to have fun."

To meet Bob and the crew of Duyfken there are a couple of options for *Have a Go News* readers. During the winter months, April to September why not put together a group of 12 or more and join us for the Coffee 'n Cake Tour (\$15/person) of Duyfken at her Fremantle home.

And then come October we re-launch the Seniors Sailing Program on the Swan River so get your club to email Peter Bowman for details at manager@duyfken.com.



YOU'RE never too young to have fun sailing...

This is Bob Meredith (pictured above), one of those unique characters that make up the volunteer sailing crew aboard Duyfken.

At a youthful 74 years Bob enjoys nothing