

Duyfken - to set sail for Dirk Hartog Island



ITS OFFICIAL...*Duyfken* will be the centre-piece during the Dirk Hartog 400th year commemorative celebrations in October next year.

What an exciting opportunity for the Foundation.

Unlike many of the Dutch sailors of those maritime adventures of the late 16th and early 17th century the volunteer crew of *Duyfken* are excited at the thought of taking *Duyfken* on a long ocean voyage from Fremantle to Denham, Shark Bay and then onto Cape Inscription at the tip of Dirk Hartog Island. There is a planned re-enactment of the landing which will take place and the celebration of this anniversary will be focussed.

For many of these dedicated sailing volunteers this voyage will be a trip of a lifetime... the joy and the challenge of sailing the beautiful, almost 100 per cent authentic replica of a 16th century ship along the inhospitable Western Australian coastline, a coastline that over the years, is said to have claimed hundreds of Dutch sailing vessels.

There is no doubting the significance that the Dutch mariners played in Australia's and indeed Western Australia's early European history. It was Willem Janszon aboard the original *Duyfken* who first set foot on Australian soil back in 1606. Dirk Hartog is acknowledged as the first European to land

on WA soil in 1616, the evidence of which was an engraved plate that Hartog left at Cape Inscription to mark his landing.

And so to 2016, 400 years on... the *Duyfken* will set sail from her home port of Fremantle on a six week voyage that will first take her south to Bunbury, then north again to Mandurah, Hillarys, Jurien Bay, Geraldton and then Denham at Shark Bay. At each port *Duyfken* will be on exhibition for school groups and members of the general public to come aboard and discover the challenges experienced by the 'Dutchies' in their quest to grow the spice trade from the East Indies.

In preparation for this voyage the volunteer crew needs to be boosted so she'll be heading to sea on these dates Sunday 17 and 31 May and 14 and 28 June as part of the shakedown sail training program... and you can join them. Only serious and dedicated sailors will be selected from that intake.

Sailing on the waters between Fremantle and Rottnest Island, each of these training sails can also take up to 12 paying passengers, so if you want to jump aboard for the ride then visit www.duyfken.com/sailing or phone the *Duyfken* office on 0427 160606.