



What's on in Shed 2?

March 2011

Alma sees the light: Hours of delicately restoring skylights on the one hundred year old ship is painstaking and worthwhile work on the heritage schooner *Alma Doepel*.

Volunteer Rain Papli is part of the dedicated team restoring *Alma Doepel*. Rain's current project is the restoration of the ship's five double skylights.

The timber frames each have to be pulled apart to be repaired, their brass guards and hardware cleaned, polished and refitted in readiness to be put back on the ship. Each half skylight takes about sixteen days.

Rain is retired and also a model ship builder, said "it's a bit like restoring antique furniture but it has to stand up to the elements and rigors of a sailing ship" Rain spends 2-3 days a week at Victoria Harbour in Docklands on the *Alma Doepel* Restoration Project.



Alma Doepel now in her 107th year is a three masted topsail schooner originally built as a shallow drafted coastal trader in Bellingen on the NSW North coast. She served in New Britain during the second world war but spent most of her years transporting a variety of goods between Hobart, Melbourne and Sydney.

Alma, as she is affectionately known, was converted into a sail training ship running youth mentoring and adventure programs throughout the 1980s and 90s. The current restoration project is well underway with the goal to be a sail training ship once more.



For more information visit the website www.almadoepel.com.au or contact Tony Spencer to arrange a tour for your group on Ph: 0418 313 816