



Raffles Bound!

There is nothing like putting a boat out to sea where she belongs. We see how passion and dedication can breathe new life into an old soul as a rejuvenated SV *Mir* embarks on a new voyage.

By Abigail Alling

was an old rusted steel hull; but now she looks like she's supposed to — a classic 1910 ketch with beautiful wooden masts, bowsprit and teak deck.

The team of nine gaily gathered on the stern while Captain Mark placed *Mir's* name and hoisted the Panama sail. Clarence started up the main engine and

Michel jumped into the zodiac tender, ready to accompany *Mir* on her first voyage since being docked all those years ago. The lines were cast and the long anticipated day had finally come! *Mir* was underway to a new life in a force 5 windy sea!



Mir crew



I awoke with the wind in my ears on April 19 as it sang through the harbour between the closely docked boats. *Mir* lay quietly though, waiting like she had for five years now, ever since she was dismantled and left at Malta's Bezzina Dockyard by her former owner. Today was the day. The day when she would head out to sea and round the corner into another dock to be provisioned for the upcoming voyage to the South China Sea.

We had been working steadfastly for eight months in Malta, rebuilding our lovely sailing ship *Mir*. The months had flown by, both challenging and rewarding. When we first arrived in September 2009, *Mir*

Valletta is the beautiful old port of Malta where battles were fought and ships, through the ages, arrived to stock up on supplies, undergo repairs, trade exotic goods and share news from foreign lands. We were still enacting those past times. We were similar sea people and our hearts lay in the voyage which had commenced at the end of May. After departing from the shelter of Malta, we're heading across the Mediterranean and down the Red Sea onwards to Singapore. With each dance on the waves, our hearts soar with the winds as the ocean calls our name.

Please continue to join our voyage at www.biosfirindonesia.org.