

WORLD SHIP SOCIETY VICTORIA BRANCH



Figaro and Papuan Chief pass in the Rip. Lois Pitts.

NEWSLETTER

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The Victoria branch of the World Ship Society meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Port Education Centre in Lorimer St Port Melbourne. Visitors are most welcome. Any membership enquiries can be made to The Secretary C/o PO Box 5038 Middle Park Victoria. 3206. or via our website www.wss-vic.org.au.

The Port Of Melbourne Corporation is a proud sponsor of the Port Education Centre.



Having departed Geelong, *Spirit Of Adventure* proceeds up to Melbourne. Photo by Andrew MacKinnon.

The sight of a passenger ship in Geelong these days is a rarity so it was somewhat pleasing to see the elderly and smallish cruise vessel *Spirit of Adventure* anchored in Corio Bay on the 20/12. She had called in to drop off passengers to go cruising around the region including the 12 Apostles and the Great Ocean Road and then for them to rejoin the ship in Melbourne. Operated by Saga Cruises, the trading name of her beneficial owner and manager Acromas Shipping of the Bahamas, this vessel was built way back in 1981 at HDW Kiel as the *Berlin* for Peter Deilmann. She made her only call to Port Phillip when she called at Melbourne in February 1983 as the *Princess Mahsuri* when on charter to Blue Funnel cruises whilst trading around Asia. In 2004 she was sold to Saga Cruises and entered service under her current name for the newly established Saga brand Spirit of Adventure Cruises. Unlike other Saga Ships she does not have a 50 year minimum age limit. In early 2011 she was chased by pirates between Madagascar and Zanzibar. Her specs are IMO 7904889, 9,570 GT, 139m loa (lengthened 20m in 1986), carries 352 passengers and is flagged in Malta with home port Valetta. She is reportedly in her last year as she is scheduled to be replaced by the *Quest for Adventure* (Saga Pearl 11) in 2012 after her recent sale to German cruise operator Phoenix Riessen. Peter Grunberg.