

BIRCH 4

IMO No: 9224099 BULKER 2000 / 15071 GT

COMPANY:

Wallem Shipmanagement Ltd.,
Hong Kong

YARD INFORMATION:

Imabari Shipbuilding Co. Ltd.
(Japan) 554

DEMOLITION:



Lyttelton (N.Z) 5/10/2010 © A. Calvert

BASIC DATA:

GT: 15,071
Deadweight: 25,369
Overall Length (m): 159.940
Moulded LxBxD (m): 149.800 x 26.000 x 13.500
Draught (m): 9.815
Cranes: C 4(30.5)

OWNER & FLAG HISTORY:

BIRCH 4 since 01-04-2010 LRF
SINGAPORE GRACE since 01-06-2008 LRF
MILLENNIUM BRIGHT since 01-06-2002 LRF
JODY F MILLENIUM during 2000 LRF

Flag Date of record Source

Hong Kong, China since 01-06-2008 LRF
Panama since 01-02-2000 LRF
Registered owner Date of record Source
BIRCH SHIPPING LTD since 12-04-2010 LRF
SINGAPORE GRACE SHIPPING LTD since 28-06-2008
TWIN BRIGHT SHIPPING CO SA since 01-02-2000 LRF
Ship manager Date of record Source
WALLEM SHIPMANAGEMENT LTD since 09-09-2010 LRF
MUR SHIPPING BV since 28-06-2008 LRF
DOJIMA MARINE CO LTD since 01-11-2007 LRF
TAIYO SANGYO TRADING & MARINE since 28-03-2006
SOKI KISEN KK during 2000 LRF

EX-NAMES:

JODY F MILLENIUM	2000-02	Twin Bright Shg. Co. S.A., Panama
MILLENNIUM BRIGHT	2002-08	Twin Bright Shg. Co. S.A., Panama
SINGAPORE GRACE	2008-10	Singapore Grace Shg. Ltd., Hong Kong
BIRCH 4	2010-	Birch Shg. Ltd., Hong Kong

GENERAL VESSEL INFORMATION:

Built by the Imabari Shipbuilding Company, the vessel was laid down as Yard No. 554 on June 29, 1999, and launched as the **JODY F MILLENIUM** on December 26.

It was delivered on February 24, 2000, to Twin Bright Shipping SA, a company owned by Soki Kisen KK of Ehime, for service under the flag of Panama. After the vessel was repaired, it was renamed the **MILLENNIUM BRIGHT** in June 2002.

In late November 2006, the **ship went aground near the port of Nepoui**, a town on the west coast of New Caledonia which was built to cater for the mineral industry, mainly nickel mining. It was refloated on a high tide with assistance from two tugs.

In June 2008, the ship was renamed **SINGAPORE GRACE** when it was sold to Singapore Grace Shipping Ltd, and transferred to Hong Kong registry.

The 15,071gt, 25,369dwt vessel received its current name last April when acquired by Birch Shipping Ltd, of Hong Kong, a new company that first appeared on the scene a few weeks before. It is part of Clearwater Marine Investments, established in 2002, which is organised under Woodstreet brand names.

4 Oct 2010

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/business/129555/cargo-vessel-ran-aground-under-old-name>

Under a previous name as **JODY F MILLENIUM** the ship became famous in New Zealand after **she grounded on a beach off the North Island port of Gisbourne** during a storm.

Report by A. Calvert

Due here for the first time tomorrow carrying phosphate is **BIRCH 4**, a vessel trading under its fourth name. The ship was the centre of an extremely difficult salvage operation when it went ashore at Gisborne under its original name, **JODY F MILLENIUM**.

On the evening of February 6, 2002, large swells in the harbour caused the ship, loaded with 20,000 tonnes of logs, to break several of its moorings. As attempts by tugs to hold the ship against the wharf were unsuccessful, it was decided to take the vessel to sea.

After leaving the port, the ship could not be handled, and after being hit by a heavy swell went aground off Waikanae Beach. Some logs were lost overboard and heavy fuel oil leaked from a ruptured tank in the ship's bottom.

Subsequently, Australian salvage experts were called in and heavy equipment was flown in to allow salvage attempts on the vessel, which had worked its way more than 5m into a sandy trench. The operation required much cargo to be removed to lighten the vessel before it was refloated 18 days later. It was then towed to Tauranga where the rest of the cargo was unloaded and divers patched holes in the hull. It arrived in Tauranga on March 2 and departed 16 days later at the start of a 40-day towage operation back to its builders' yard in Japan.

Last update: 27/12/2010