

## WATERFRONT

# Viking Boris conquers the seas

ERNEST HEATLEY

IT'S not often one sees a true viking braving the rough seas of the Atlantic and Pacific in search of adventure.

But Suva has its own viking in Boris Valentine, 34, a tanned Nordic-looking sailor who has sailed into the country aboard a 55-foot ship called the *Bifrost*.

The ship is anchored at the Royal Suva Yacht Club.

Boris is from Denmark, his father was part Mongolian who's Huguenot roots were pushed to Denmark from France during the 1600's, giving birth to his true viking heritage.

Boris' father was a professor in viking history and Boris grew up fascinated with the lifestyle of the ancient mariners.

Since he left Denmark in the spring of 1990, Boris has crossed Europe, the Atlantic and Pacific, even travelling to Mururoa to protest against French nuclear testing.

"The time around Mururoa was very special. For the first time we were doing something for everyone and not just for ourselves," Boris said.

Five years ago, he left Denmark with \$200 after building the *Bifrost* on his own. The ship took a year to complete.

"Twelve hours a day and seven days a week. It was hard," Boris said.

With the 1000 square rigged 150 horse-power turbo diesel charged ship, shaped in true viking



**THE *Bifrost* on a stopover in the Pacific.**

fashion and boasting colourful sails and ancient inscriptions, Boris has achieved a lifetime dream he once felt impossible.

Although short of income travelling thousands of nautical miles around the globe, Boris has financed his trips through tourist sailing trips in the Bahamas and other countries he has visited.

But says he does not like being called a "Yachtie" because he loves staying on land.

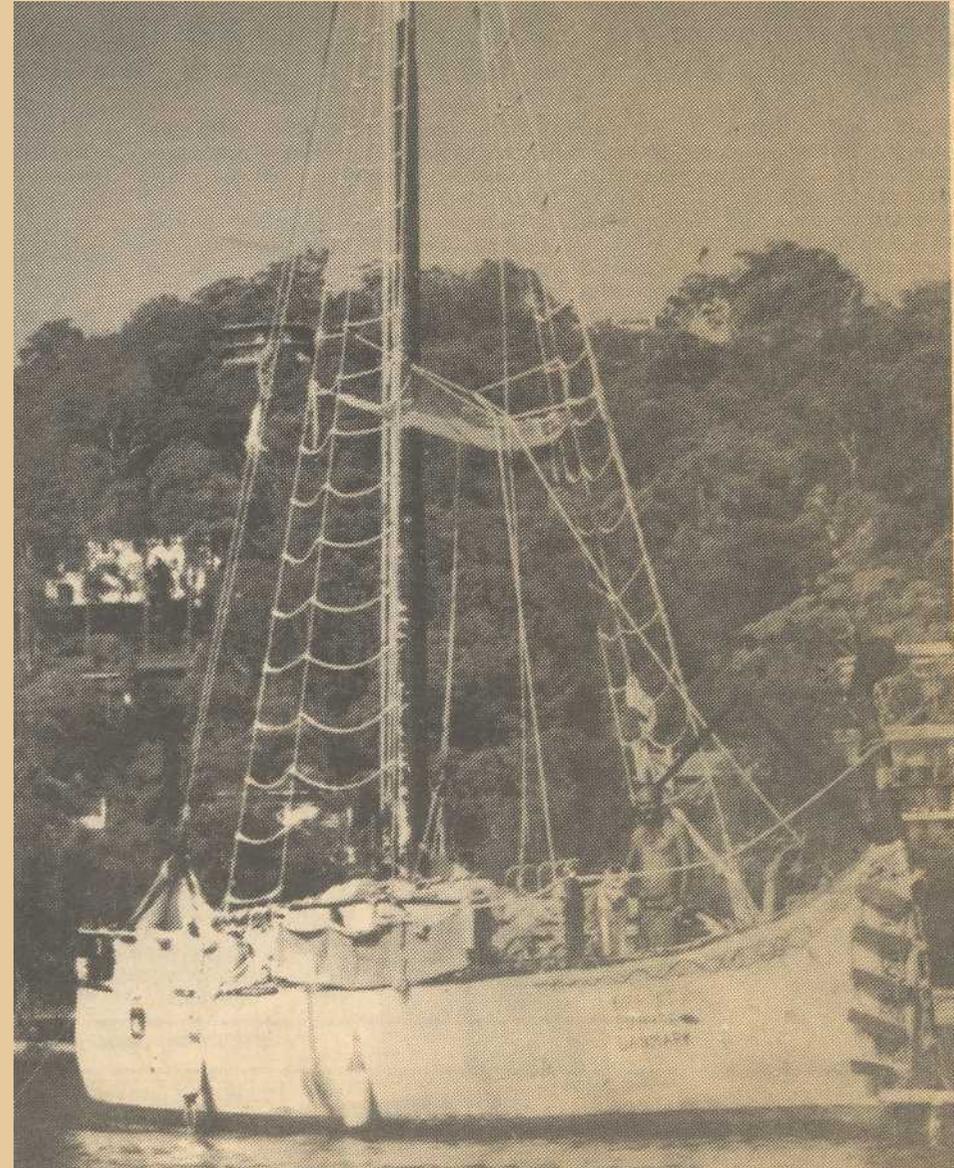
"I like to experience places by actually doing what people do and living how people live. The

saddest part is saying goodbye," he said.

He spent two years in Australia and this visit to Fiji is his second in two years. This particular trip may be extended as he has found true love in Fiji girl, Katrina Brown.

Boris said the couple would have a traditional viking wedding next month with the RSYC giving clearance to berth his ship next to where the ceremony is due to take place.

Boris is still uncertain about his plans for next year because he is taking a break after five months of conquering the seas.



**BORIS Valentine aboard the *Bifrost*.**