

A wedding with a difference

by ERNEST HEATLEY

Boris Valentine ended years of travel and on Saturday when he wed sweetheart Katrina Brown in a special ceremony likened to traditional Viking weddings in the medieval ages.

The wedding on board the colourful decorated *Bifrost* was Boris' idea. Boris has Viking ancestry dating back to Mongolia.

"I wanted it to be different from anything I have ever done because it was a special day in my life," Mr Valentine said.

Boris who had left his homeland of Denmark in 1990 to discover other cultures and experiences with his dream boat, had managed to get clearance to moor the *Bifrost* at the jetty in order to have the ceremony on board.

Boris's sister, Leona, had travelled from Denmark the day before the wedding, just to see her baby brother get married.

Former Commander of Fiji's Naval Forces, Stan Brown was also on hand to witness his daughter Katrina take the marriage vows in front of about 60 friends and guests at the Royal Suva Yacht Club.

With its 55-foot long body already etched with fine nordic art and a florally decorated deck, the boat was a scene of uniqueness as the couple were wed at sunset after a few Viking marriage laws had been followed.

In ancient fashion, the two marriage rings were passed around all the guests before the couple slipped them onto each other's fingers.

All this was done to the accompanying sounds of old European folk music.

The yacht club was a quite a scene as friends and relatives congratulated the newly weds after everything ran according to plan.

"I can't believe that it went so smoothly," said an elated Katrina yesterday.



TOGETHER at last ... Boris Valentine (left) and his bride Katrina Brown on board the *Bifrost* after exchanging their vows Picture: MICHELE McCONNELL

The couple had met at Raratonga whilst Katrina had travelled with anti-nuclear protestors on board the MV *Kaunitoni*.

It was love at first sight

for both as they met for the first time, thousands of miles away from the places they called home.

Katrina said that now their lives had been perma-

nently united, the couple had yet to plan out their future.

"Hopefully in six months we will be out there on the seas on a world trip," said

Katrina. Yesterday, couple and all their friends were still recovering from a night of continuous revelry that topped off some may describe wedding with a differ-