

# The Mosman Daily

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## Voyager's odyssey new Viking saga

VIKING in'aders sighted off Balmoral Beach?

Not really. It is the replica of an eighth century Viking trading ship, the Bifrost, under the command of its Danish skipper, Boris Valentin.

Boris built the ferroconcrete long ship in 1988-89 in Denmark, to original Viking specifications.

In Old Norse mythology, Bifrost is the bridge to the world of the gods, and Boris appears to be his piece of heaven-on-earth to the hilt.

He anchored off Balmoral last week after sailing around Europe, Central America and the Caribbean.

"She used all my money but still, I have my home and still I can travel," Boris said.

"She is very traditional — no winches, just blocks — but is fully solar powered."

The ship is roomy, to say the least, with a 16.5m overall length, 5m beam and 1m draught.

"She carries one square rigged sail of 93 sq m and sails well to windward. I have done 13 knots in her and she will surf over reefs with the shallow draught."

Boris's constant companion on board is Aiko, which means "princess" in Greenland and "loved one" in Japan. Quarter alpine wolf and three quarters Alaskan malamute, the two-year-old bitch has not been

by RICK COLLINS

on land for several months and will stay on board while in Australia because of quarantine regulations.

Boris sets off north in April and doesn't know, or really care, where he will end up.

"Never plan" he said with a relaxed grin.



Above: Boris Valentin, Viking skipper

Left: Bifrost, replica Viking long ship at Balmoral Beach

Below: Shipmate Aiko, part alpine part malamute, looks longingly at the cannot reach

PHOTOS: Virginia Y



# Mack calls for censure over 'hostel fire hazard'