



47 A "great Dane" has arrived in Whangarei to add a distinct Scandinavian flavour to the international floating community at the city's Town Basin.

It is the Bifrost, above, a 15-metre replica of an ancient Viking trader on a world cruise with a Danish skipper and an International crew. Sporting a mythological dragon on the bow, the Bifrost was built five years ago by skipper Boris Valentine and Australian Andy Griffiths and is made of fibreglass and steel.

Now halfway through the world cruise, the Bifrost will be in Whangarei while some of the crew see

New Zealand. For three other members — Scott Bently of Canada, Billy Jayne of Sydney and Canadian Sam Cohne — it was the end of the journey. They all flew home at the weekend.

The boat's hull is a replica of one uncovered by archaeologists in Denmark and the only modern difference is the living space. A true Viking trader would have been an open boat.

Here at the bow of the yacht are, from left, Sam Cohne, Scott Bently, Billy Jayne and Andy Griffiths.

—John Stone photo