

# 'Can do' Kiwis inspire

**NICK CHURCHOUSE**

SIR PETER BLAKE and Michael Hill took the New Zealand "can do" attitude to the world in different ways, but their stories had boat builders and designers, billionaire yacht owners and others at the Yacht Vision 08 event fascinated yesterday.

Marine scientist and environmentalist Mark Orams, a former sailing companion of the late Sir Peter, paid tribute at the luxury yachting symposium in Auckland to the legendary Kiwi sailor's efforts as a fervent enthusiast for all things marine.

Speaking at the symposium about yachting security in light of Sir Peter's murder by armed pirates in

the Amazon, Dr Orams said it was inspirational that some superyacht owners held the same regard for the marine environment that Sir Peter had in his scientific and environmental work on board his flagship Seamaster.

Though the 36-metre French-built craft was "aesthetically challenged" compared with the multimillion-dollar luxury yacht typical of the booming global industry, the environmental passion shown in the sailing pursuits of some of the more adventurous luxury yacht owners mirrored the appreciation Sir Peter had demonstrated for the marine world.

Jewellery millionaire Michael Hill, meanwhile, said that since owning a kauri dinghy in his home

town of Whangarei he had enjoyed 10 different craft, but he had never imagined building a 35-metre superyacht till it was actually under construction.

The grey-hulled VvS1, built by Auckland boat building powerhouse Alloy Yachts, sports a full gymnasium, a teppenyaki bar and live bait tanks for his passion of fishing, and allowed him to experience the very marine beauty which had inspired Sir Peter.

Fellow superyacht owner Jan-Eric Osterlund, a Swedish biotech billionaire, showcased the yacht earlier.

"That boat has brought to me a different world, a different experience." Mr Hill said.



**Sales pitch:** With a cool \$6.75 million price tag, the luxury sports cruiser Crystal Blue is a sleek 24-metre-long slice of understated elegance that cuts a wake at [the Auckland International Boat Show](#). Picture: JOHN SELKIRK  
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