

Blue-water ocean passage in luxury

Amanda Davey

TUCKED away in semi-rural Terrey Hills is a busy yacht building enterprise that has been quietly and industriously producing three handcrafted yachts a year since it was founded by Dutch visionary and boat builder Eddy Buizen several decades ago.

Known as Mastercraft Marine, this small family concern has established a name for itself in local yachting circles for its Buizen pilot house yacht range, an upmarket version of the old motor-sailor class.

Mastercraft director Steve Howe says the Buizens cannot be compared with production yachts.

“Ten thousand man-hours go into the 48 with a 10-month build time,” he said.

“Handcrafted, they are the best money can buy.”

Pitched towards the cashed-up retiree market and competing against holiday homes and luxury camper vans rather than other cruising yachts, a fully optioned Buizen would set the avid yachting back about \$1.4 million.

Known in the trade as a “luxury blue-water ocean passage-making yacht”, these prestigious vessels have been designed mainly for

round-the-world sailing and extended holiday cruising.

“We think they are one of the best-built boats in the world and the beauty of them is that they can be sailed shorthanded, by a couple,” Mr Howe said.

“Everything can be controlled from the cockpit, and the pilot house component means there is an internal helm protecting the skipper from the elements and providing full communication from stem to stern.”

Built to order, the yachts can do a top speed of about 9.5 knots while the 1180-litre fuel tank provides one litre per nautical mile. Marketing these luxury yachts has never been a priority for Mastercraft as a result of its high standing in the local market. It has consistently produced three yachts a year.

According to Steve Howe, these are “semi-customised, traditional yachts that are built by specialists interfacing and working together”.

“Part of the joy for our customers is spending time at the factory and being part of the building process.”

There are just 31 Buizen yachts around the world, with another three in production.

For more information phone Mastercraft Marine on 9450 2170.



New, upmarket take on the proven motor-sailor concept – the Buizen 48 pilot house yacht.