



Pete Bethune.

Height 178 cm

Master Of Ceremony Biography
JOHNSON&LAIRD

Straight-talking eco-adventurer Pete Bethune has a swag of good work stories. The conservationist's hair-raising adventures combined with compelling tales of leadership and motivation make him a captivating speaker.

He 's been shot at while confronting pirates and detained by police in Guatemala. He spent months at sea in Earthrace, a bio-fuelled powerboat, trying to beat the world record for circumnavigating the globe in a powerboat and without leaving a carbon footprint. It took two attempts but he smashed the record by 14 days.

No stranger to controversy, Pete has gone to extreme lengths for his cause, once doing time in a Japanese jail after an anti-whaling protest resulted in his arrest. And (not quite as extreme)he's also had liposuction—a publicity stunt to raise awareness of bio-fuels on his powerboat trip.

Pete is currently filming a second series of his reality show, The Operatives, which follows former Special Forces operatives on dangerous conservation missions. The first series, filmed in Africa and Central America, included several gunfights and the arrest of 15 poachers.

The young Pete 's independent spirit was fostered by hunting trips with his dad and overnight camps in the bush with his brothers. A born entrepreneur, the teenage Pete and his twin brother made a killing flogging the possums they hunted. Pete's share funded the makeover of his docile Mark I Ford Escort car to a fast and furious speed machine; after Pete's pimping, the car could drive a quarter mile in just 14 seconds.

Pete credits two "outstanding"teachers in Year 8 for making him knuckle down at school. He went on to study science and engineering at university, and got a taste for the ocean as an oil engineer in the North Sea and Libya. On returning home with money to burn, he set up the tech /robotics company CamSensor, and took it to Australia where he completed a Masters degree in Business Administration. While skippering Earthrace he became alarmed at the state of the world's oceans and post-race embarked on another world trip, this time promoting the use of sustainable fuels, before becoming involved with the antiwhaling activist group Sea Shepherd Conservationist Society.

His 2010 book *Whale Warrior* explains the events that led to his jail time.

A constant traveller, Pete has a set of travel essentials: his Gerber knife, a Leatherman Mut, and a personal emergency locator beacon. He can sleep anywhere, and often has to - couches, airports, cars, and the jungle—so is never without his sleeping bag. The almost-vegan loves seafood and can 't live without a coffee or three each day.

In his downtime he pumps iron at the gym, updates his Facebook page with news of his latest projects and dreams up new ways to foil poachers on sea and land. His current dream boat is a 55m assault vessel, to be used for thwarting poachers in the Pacific Ocean.

To unwind, he channels Michelangelo by sculpting wood, and donates the finished products to his various hosts and helpers.