

# 'Old woman of the sea' gets a new life in PE

By SIVUYILE MANGXAMBA

A 37-YEAR-OLD yacht, the Sewin, restored to its former glory, has been re-launched at the Algoa Bay Yacht Club.

The ceremony was conducted by top Port Elizabeth businessman and 1999 Herald Mayor's Citizen of the Year, Phil Gutsche, at a special function at the yacht club.

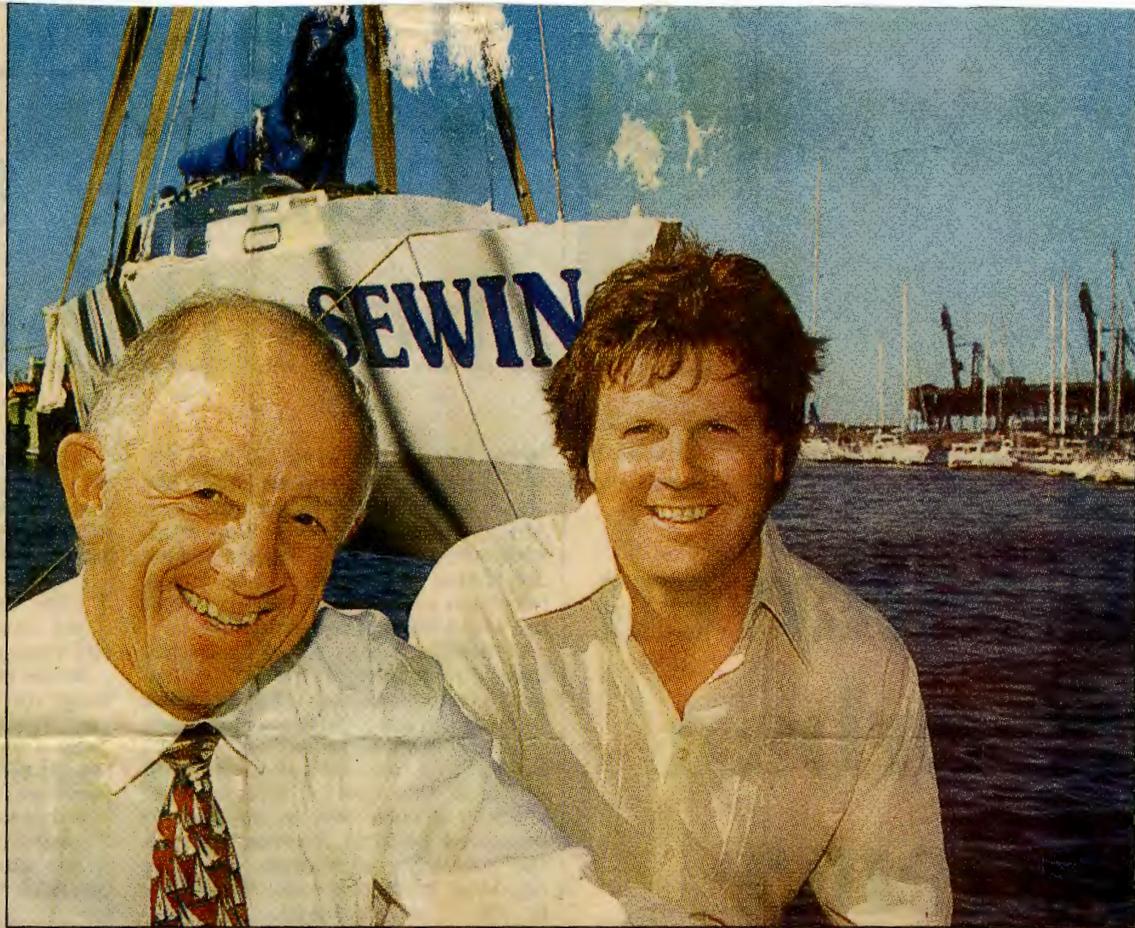
The yacht, which was built in 1962, is owned and skippered by Mark Thomson.

Mr Gutsche, 61, an avid sailor himself, blessed the Royal Cape One Design boat and said: "May God bless all those who will sail with her."

When you was lowered into the water last week, Mr Gutsche, who participated with his Great Warrior and won the class in the Cape to Rio race earlier this year, wished Sewin's crew a happy and wonderful voyage at sea.

Thomson said the yacht will be ready for the Africa's biggest sailing event, Continental Week, which begins on 30 and runs until 5.

Thomson said the yacht, which was bought



**CHRISTENED . . .** Herald Mayor's Citizen of the Year Phil Gutsche, 61, re-launched the Sewin at the Algoa Bay Yacht Club last week. With him is yacht skipper Mark Thomson.

Picture: B-JAY PIERCEY

from its Durban owners for R52 000, had a history of outperforming bigger and more modern boats.

The yacht finished second in her maiden race from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth in 1998. Mr Thomson, 36, a

technician at a telecommunications company, rebuilt the racing yacht with the help of friends. The 30-foot yacht, built of marine ply, takes a crew of four. Mr Thomson said they hoped to gain some experience during Continental Week.

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