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Introducing – Michael Hill, Jeweller

The man behind the famous brand Michael Hill Jeweller will soon be touching down in Rarotonga. And while our black pearls might get a look in whilst he's here, the catalyst for his visit is the 2016 Air New Zealand Cook Islands Tourism Awards evening; he will be the special guest speaker at the event.

Cook Islands Tourism Industry Council president John Webb was today thrilled to announce that Sir Michael had accepted the Council's invitation which was made possible thanks to support from Air New Zealand, the Bank of the Cook Islands and Little Polynesian.

"Sir Michael will be a familiar face and voice to many here in Rarotonga, certainly those who have spent any time in NZ or Australia. As with many of our tourism operators here in the Cook Islands, Sir Michael was a hands on operator and marketer of his business. He started small opening his first store in Whangarei in 1979 and the business grew and grew and now has stores bearing his name not only in NZ and Aussie but also Canada and the United States. I, for one am looking forward to hearing about and possibly learning from his journey."

Sir Michael has a love of music and in his much younger days considered a career as a concert violinist. Instead he became a watch maker, and his creative side inspired him to found Michael Hill Jeweller.

He opened seven shops in seven years, then set his sights on 70 more in the following seven years. Today Michael Hill Jeweller, of which he was Chairman until last November when he handed the reins to his daughter, has over 270 stores in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA; the aim is to establish 1,000 stores by 2022.

According to their website, Sir Michael has guided the organisation with a compelling vision - that inspired design and quality craftsmanship can help each person find their own inner shine.

"From his expertly designed collections, to the support of creative endeavors in music, art and sports, Sir Michael has always focused on finding the creative spirit in everything around him".

"Sir Michael will be in Rarotonga for a few days during which we hope he shares some of his creative spirit and no-nonsense business insights that have served him and his brand so well", Webb concluded.

The Air New Zealand 2016 Cook Islands Tourism Awards Presentation and Gala Dinner will be held at the National Auditorium on Friday 15th April, 2016. More information about the event will be made available in the coming weeks.