

MEDIA RELEASE

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**AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE POWERBOAT SERIES**  
**ANNOUNCES 2007 SPONSORS**

ACME Fibreglass Supplies will continue its association with the Australian Offshore Powerboat Series, continuing on as the official naming rights sponsor for the 2007 series.

ACME Managing Director, Steve Searle, also competes in the Class One field with his brother Andrew and has been a long time supporter of offshore racing in Australia.

“We are very pleased to again be naming rights sponsor of the series in what will be the most exciting year in recent times for offshore racing in Australia”, said Steve Searle.

“The arrival of the one make series with the backing of Australia’s premier small boat manufacturer, Haines, is a major plus for the series and will see participation in the sport on the rise.

Also continuing its support of the Australian Offshore Powerboat Series in 2007 is the Nautilus Marine Insurance Agency.

As part of Nautilus Marine’s sponsorship for the 2007 series, Nautilus Insurance will offer 12 months free boat insurance to all the Production Class and One Make Series competitors who compete in all six rounds of the series.

“We had some great results with the series last year, so there was no hesitation at all in jumping back on board for 2007, especially with the new one make Suzuki Series going ahead in 2007”, said Paul Wilson of Nautilus Marine.

New to this year’s series is the introduction of a one-make class, where all competitors in that class will have exactly the same boat specifications.

In a joint venture between The Haines Group and ACME Fibreglass, the one make class will be a Haines Signature 1900s boat matched with a Suzuki 150HP four stroke outboard motor, with prize money to be distributed to competitors based on end of season results.

“Adding the one-make class to the offshore series will really show who has the racing skill because the boats will be exactly the same, no teams will have an edge over another.”

“We want to help bring people into offshore racing and the prize money will help to do that, coupled with the affordability of these boats,” said John Haines Junior of The Haines Group.

The AOPC is proud to announce three new sponsors to the series in 2007 in Navman, Adrian Bright Powerboat Engineering and photography company Urban Angles.

“Getting Navman on board is a fantastic result for the series, they sponsored a boat in the six litre category last year, but have gone one step further this year and thrown their support behind the entire series, its fantastic”, said AOPC representative Antony DeFina.

Specialising in navigational systems, many of the teams use Navman products while competing in the offshore series, the relationship should prove to be fruitful for both parties.

“The Offshore Powerboat Series has steadily grown in Australia and is becoming more and more popular among fans each season”, said Navman Australian Brand Manager Chris Radford.

“We see the sponsorship providing great future benefit to the Navman brand and anticipate that this will become a long term relationship for Navman and the Australian Offshore Powerboat Series”, said Chris Radford.

Adrian Bright Powerboat Engineering (ABPE Pty Ltd) will be at the front of the 2007 series, providing the ‘Official Start Boat’ for the entire season.

With a top speed in excess of 70mph, the 9.75m APBE Sunsation Dominator 32, powered by twin 320hp Mercruiser MX 6.2 MPI engines is the perfect boat to get each race underway.

“This is as much about promoting performance boating as it is about my boats”, said Adrian Bright.

“There are now several world-class Australian performance boat manufacturers and there is a momentum of interest in performance boating with more and more events being staged” said Adrian Bright.

The official start boat for 2007 will be hauled by an equally awesome ‘Corvette Queensland’ GMC truck from round to round.

Photography Company Urban Angles will also provide their services to the series as a sponsor in 2007, having also performed photography duties in 2006.

“Being involved with the series last year was a great opportunity, and we have thrown our support behind the series in 2007 in the form of some sponsorship and hopefully the series continues to thrive”, said Urban Angles Director John Wheatley.

The ACME Fibreglass Supplies 2007 Australian Offshore Powerboat Series kicks off on February 17 and 18 in Geelong, making its way up the eastern coast of Australia for six rounds of high speed, adrenaline filled offshore action.

**2007 AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE POWERBOAT SERIES CALENDAR:**

Round One	Geelong	17-18 February
Round Two	Williamstown	24-25 February
Round Three	Newcastle	21-22 April
Round Four	Sydney- Botany Bay	28-29 April
Round Five	Sunshine Coast	30 June- 1 July
Round Six	Gold Coast	7-8 July

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