

AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE POWERBOAT CLUB
ANNOUNCES 2007 CALENDAR

The Australian Offshore Powerboat Club today announced its 2007 calendar with the arrival of two exciting new venues; one new venue in Melbourne and another in Sydney.

Continuing on with a similar format to last year's calendar, the series will again host two events in each of Victoria, New South Wales and finish off in Queensland.

Geelong will play host to the opening round in 2007 over the weekend of 17-18 February, with the Steampacket Gardens once again to provide a fantastic location for the pit areas.

"The Geelong Classic Offshore Powerboat race is becoming a major tourist attraction for our region," said Geelong Mayor Peter McMullin.

"The race itself is a spectacular event, and the Geelong Waterfront is the perfect place for spectators to watch these incredible craft being put through their paces," the Mayor said.

"Geelong has been a favourite venue for the series for many years and the local residents and council really get behind us, so we think it is a fantastic place to kick off the 2007 calendar," said series secretary Antony DeFina.

"The area at Geelong really suits the set up of the pits and when all the boats are lined up on Steampacket Gardens it looks fantastic and draws quite a crowd."

Round Two will see the series move to Williamstown in Melbourne, the first of two new venues in 2007 over the weekend of 24-25 February.

Last years pit areas were located at New Quay at the Docklands, however the shift to Williamston will still allow viewing from Station Pier, so Melburnians won't have to travel any further to watch this years race as the new course is still to be set around Hobsons Bay.

Moving up the coast to New South Wales, the series will hit Newcastle for round three on the 21-22 April before continuing on to Sydney the following week 28-29 April at a brand new venue.

Sydney's 2007 offshore action will see the teams roar around Botany Bay, with the pit area being moved from St. Georges Motor Boat Club to the Cooks River Boat Ramp, Rockdale.

"We have changed venue in Sydney for 2007 for a variety of reasons, but mainly because the pit area at St. Georges Motor Boat Club was too far from the race course and the area just wasn't large enough to cater to all our boats.

The final two rounds will be held under the sunshine of Queensland, with the penultimate round to be staged on the Sunshine Coast on 30 June-1 July at Mooloolaba.

Gold Coast will host the sixth and final round of the ACME Australian offshore Powerboat Series in 2007 on 7-8 July.

2007 looks to be an action packed and adrenaline filled year with many new competitors and some exciting new race venues to liven up the series.

“The arrival of the one-make series has been a huge success; we have had some really positive feedback and interest in that category, as well as the new teams that have entered the four litre field” said Antony DeFina.

2007 looks to be a very positive year for offshore racing in Australia as new teams, categories and better racing formats really look to improve the standard and success of offshore powerboating in Australia.

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- Cooks River	28-29 April
Round Five	Sunshine Coast	30 June- 1 July
Round Six	Gold Coast	7-8 July

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