

**ACME RACING FINALLY BREAKS DROUGHT  
AT AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE POWERBOAT SERIES**

Acme Racing's brothers Steve and Andrew Searle have broken the drought to take out line honours at round two of the Australian Offshore Powerboat Series in Melbourne this afternoon.

After a winless 2006 campaign with constant problems with their boat, Acme powered home today in tough conditions to break the drought and record their first win since 2005.

Winds of 25 knots combined with swells of up to two metres as thousands lined the shores at Williamstown, with the rough conditions frequently sending boats airborne putting on an amazing display for fans.

The day belonged to the Searle brothers, as Acme Racing stormed home to win the Hobson's Bay Classic more than a minute in front of second placed Simrad.

"Conditions were really tough today, so it's great to have a win, the water was very awkward to race on today so we tried to quicken up in the flatter waters," said throttleman Steve Searle.

"That's the best the boat has felt, it was solid as a rock so we are very pleased because the conditions threw everyone around a fair bit today."

Simrad managed to place second, though driver Luke Durman explained they didn't have their boat set up as they may have liked.

"It was really tough today, we took a pounding and the conditions were really difficult for racing," explained Durman.

"We probably should have been down a gear and down a prop size today, and may have done with a little bit more ballast than we had, however it was good to get over the line in one piece."

The opening laps were neck and neck, with four Class- 1 boats going head to head for the until the Smorgon and Maritimo teams were forced out of the race.

Maritimo had a chunk taken out of their boat in the rough waters and had to retire due to the damage, and Smorgon Steel were also forced out.

"It was unbelievably disappointing to be forced out today because we were actually leading at one stage and had some really good pace," said Smorgon driver Mat Humphrey.

"The crew have put in a lot of work to get the boat settled and it was travelling fantastically today until we encountered some problems on lap two."

"We are still unsure exactly what the problem is, but it seems to have been an electrical fault because both the engines are running fine."

Class Three- four litre champions Hogs Breath won their respective category today with conditions wreaking havoc on smaller boats and forcing the production and one make classes to be curtailed.

Kwozzy notched up second place in the four litre category as Ezy Does it were forced out after losing all power, while the Shaken Not Stirred team blew a gear box and also retired.

"Conditions were deemed to dangerous for the smaller categories to keep racing, the worsening sea state forced the issue and we had to err on the side of caution," said Race Director Russell Embleton.

The series will move to New South Wales for two rounds in April at Sydney and Newcastle, before making its way to Queensland for the final two rounds.

2007 Australian Offshore Powerboat Series proudly sponsored by Acme Fibreglass Supplies, Navman, Nautilus Marine, Urban Angles and APBE.

### **OUTRIGHT ROUND RESULTS (PROVISIONAL) – HOBSONS BAY CLASSIC**

1.	ACME RACING	Steve & Andrew Searle
2.	SIMRAD	Luke Durman/ Ross Willaton
3.	HOGS BREATH	Paul Gibbs/ Paul Fowlds
4.	KWOZZY	Jim Harris/ Adam Nicolls
5.	EZY DOES IT	Ian Harris/ Graham Fraser

### **CLASS WINNERS- HOBSONS BAY CLASSIC**

Class One	ACME RACING
Class 3-6 litre	BLADE CUSTOM BOATS
Class 3-4 litre	HOGS BREATH
Production	PIRAHNA
Haines- Signature/ Suzuki	ACME RACING

Visit these websites:

[www.aopc.com.au](http://www.aopc.com.au)