



MEDIA RELEASE

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**ACME SET TO BLOW AWAY THE COMPETITION**  
**AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE POWERBOAT SERIES**

ACME Racing hold a 700 point lead in the 2007 Australian Offshore Powerboat Series Class 1 championship, having taken line honours in two of the opening four rounds and looking the most consistent and solid performer of this years Class 1 field to date.

Having had a horror run in 2006 where they flipped their boat at high speed during round three at Newcastle, the Searle brothers have come back bigger and better than ever, their confidence is sky high, and they have their boat travelling so well that it could be mistaken for a totally different vessel and Steve Searle reveals that it definitely feels that way.

“There came a point last year that I almost thought about giving it away because we just weren’t getting the results and it was such a tough task to drive the boat at each event it really took it’s tole on you,” explained Steve Searle.

“I started to think that maybe I was passed it, but after the changes that have improved the driveability of the boat this year, I think I will stick round for a few years yet.

“We’ve sorted out the weight distribution and the new configuration has the boat travelling beautifully, it’s sitting flatter and there isn’t the lift in the nose that we had to deal with last year.

“A lot of the credit needs to go to Andrew- he has mastered these engines over the last ten years and we are back at the top of the Series points table.

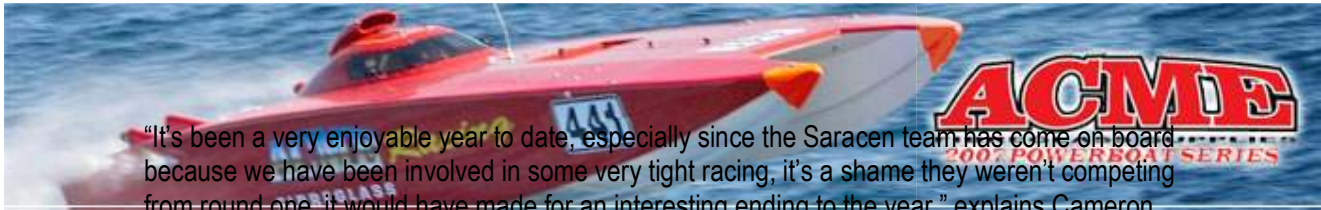
“We are in a good position to win this year’s series, but there are still two races to go so we aren’t getting ahead of ourselves,” said Steve Searle.

After a blower belt problem forced them to retire from the opening round of the series in Geelong, the Searle’s haven’t looked back and the boat has looked invincible during races.

A strong performance at round two in Williamstown secured ACME their first win since 2005, and they followed up with another win in Sydney as they stormed home ahead of Maritimo to win the Botany Bay Classic and take comfortable lead into the next round to be held in the Whitsundays on 15-16 June.

Blade Custom Boats have secured enough points to give them the Class Three- 6 litre 2007 crown, a solid effort from Cameron Davis and Gryff Ethell after purchasing their boat at the end of last year’s series.

Saracen Performance arrived on the scene later than expected this year, resulting in Blade Custom Boats tallying up enough points to gain an un-assailable lead in the series.



"It's been a very enjoyable year to date, especially since the Saracen team has come on board because we have been involved in some very tight racing, it's a shame they weren't competing from round one, it would have made for an interesting ending to the year," explains Cameron Davis of Blade Performance Boats.

The race is on for the 'Shark Cat Trophy' in the Class Three- four litre field, as Hogs Breath have a fight on their hands to retain the title after years of sustained success and superiority over all challengers.

With a 387 point lead over *Shaken Not Stirred* heading into round five next month, Hogs Breath are well aware that one slip up in the final two rounds will open the door for their challengers in the most competitive field of the year.

"We have seen exactly what the other teams are capable of and we no longer have a strangle hold on the category, both Ezy Does It and Kwozzy Racing have won races this year and the Shaken Not Stirred boat has been very consistent," explained Paul Gibbs.

A new addition to the series this year, the Haines Signature/ Suzuki one make class has produced some well contested battles, with ACME leading the points from Slam and Jericho, though the Jericho team have won both rounds they have contested in since entering the series, the in-augural one make title is still up for grabs.

Round five will be contested at a brand new location for the Australian Offshore Powerboat Series, as the Whitsundays plays host to the series for the first time at Airlie Beach.

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS AFTER ROUND 4**

##### **Class 1**

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>DRIVERS</b>	<b>POINTS TALLY</b>
ACME Racing	Steve/Andrew Searle	1700 points
SIMRAD	Luke Durman/ Ross Willaton	1000
MARITIMO	Tom & Bill Barry-Cotter/ Peter McGrath	1000
SMORGON	Steve Jellick/ Mat Humphrey	525

##### **Class Three- 6 Litre**

BLADE	Cameron Davis/ Gryff Ethol	1800
SARACEN	Antony DeFina/ Simon Thomas	850

##### **Class Three- 4 Litre**

HOGS BREATH	Paul Gibbs/ Paul Fowlds	1625
SHAKEN NOT STIRRED	Mike Beil/ Garry Smith	1238
KWOZZY	Jim Harris/ Adam Nicolls	1225
EZY DOES IT	Ian Harris/ Graham Fraser	1150
PHOENIX	Jonathan Muir/ Mark Taylor	227

##### **HAINES SIGNATURE/ SUZUKI CLASS**

ACME	Chris Searle/ Chris Jadkonis	1625
SLAM	David Hay/ Paul Schott	1425
JERICHO	Rodney Walker/ Brett Carroll	950