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### 2008 AUSTRALIAN MARINE AWARDS - GREAT RESULTS FOR AIMEX MEMBERS

The strong line-up of finalists in the 2008 Australian Marine Awards is proof that Australian consumers have more choice of marine product than ever before, according to CEO of the Australian Marine Industries Federation (AMIF), Sherry Donaldson. Ms Donaldson said 61 finalists battled it out for the 2008 Australian Marine Awards which will be announced at The Marriott Resort Surfers Paradise on May 22. The finalists faced judging panels in Perth, Gold Coast and Sydney. Ms Donaldson said nominations from locally manufactured and imported products was an indication of the wide choice available to consumers.

“The benefit of choice is also available to overseas consumers because many of the Australian made products are exported and compete on the international market. “This choice helps create 36 000 jobs and generates \$6 billion in spending across Australia, making the marine industry a valuable contributor to the national economy. “Ever since the arrival of the First Fleet, Australia has been a boating nation and while our economy remains strong and the population continues to expand, the marine industry will be an integral part of coastal and inland communities.”

Ms Donaldson said the Australian Marine Awards were a celebration of the recreational marine industry in Australia, recognising the country’s finest manufacturers and importers of vessels, innovative products and exporters associated with recreational boating. “All finalists represent excellence in quality and to be a finalist is an outstanding achievement in itself,” she said.

“All self nominated and media nominated vessels were eligible for consideration for a finalist position.”

Ms Donaldson said the award finalists were evaluated by two teams of judges, four from media and four independents, all of whom were experts in their individual fields. The 2008 judges were Kevan Wolfe, Ian Macrae, Chris Beattie, Mark (Doc) Robinson, Andy Cooper, Antony Krokowski, Rod Tweddle, Mike Brown and Ian Ward.

Judging criteria for finalists includes an exhaustive checklist of more than 40 items covering overall impressions, presentation, ergonomics, performance and safety.

The Australian Marine Awards is supported by media partners Club Marine, Modern Boating, the Gold Coast Bulletin, Seaspray and Yaffa Publishing and is sponsored by OCV Reinforcements, Fusion, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR), Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show and the Gold Coast City Council.

#### Results of the Australian Marine Awards for AIMEX members are:

##### **Boat of the Year (Power)**

The Riviera Group Riviera 4400 Sport Yacht Winner

##### **Fishing Trailerable - Aluminium Over 6m**

Quintrex 670 Offshore SDD Winner

##### **Fishing Non Trailerable - Up To 10m**

Leisurecat Australia 8000 Sportsfisher Winner

**Fishing Non Trailerable - Over 10m**

Maritimo Maritimo 550 Offshore Convertible Winner

**Cruiser Trailerable - Fibreglass/GRP Over 6m**

Whittley Marine Group Whittley 2800 Cruiser Winner

**Cruiser Non Trailerable - Over 10m**

The Riviera Group Riviera 4400 Sport Yacht Winner

**Imported Non Trailerable Cruiser Power**

The Riviera Group Grand Banks Heritage 59 Commendation

**Dayboat**

Quintrex Pty Ltd Quintrex 530 Freedom Cruiser Commendation

**Innovative Product**

Marina Protection System Grounding Strap Commendation