



**PARTNERSHIPS FOR
CLEANER SEAS**

AUSMEP MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT
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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MICHAEL JULIAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

02 6254 2559

0417657951

mjulian@bigpond.net.au

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NEIL BAIRD NEW AUSMEPA CHAIRMAN

At its Annual General Meeting on Friday December 15 2006 the Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA) elected Neil Baird of Baird Publications as its new Chairman. Neil Baird has been actively involved in AUSMEPA since its inception as a Board Member; he is also 'a roving ambassador' for the International Marine Environment Protection Association (INTERMEPA).

On his election Neil Baird said he was humbled yet very pleased to be elected to the position of Chairman and looked forward to helping AUSMEPA continue to grow and achieve its objectives of making Australians more aware of the marine environment and the need to protect it through its school student and seafarer education programs.

Captain Michael Alexander, the outgoing Chairman who announced some months ago his intention to stand down in 2007, welcomed the decision of the members saying that Neil Baird was an excellent choice who will bring fresh ideas and new life to AUSMEPA.

Captain John Watkinson, General Manager Maritime Safety Queensland, presented Captain Alexander with a plaque and paid tribute to his outstanding dedication and personal commitment to AUSMEPA since its inception in 1999, initially as interim Chairman and then as the first elected Chairman in July 2000. He said Captain Alexander had steered AUSMEPA to become a very successful organisation which was growing and well recognised in the Australian and international shipping community.

Also at the AUSMEPA AGM Captain Conrad Saldanha (Origin Energy, Sydney) was re-elected Deputy Chairman.

Information on AUSMEPA can be found on its website www.ausmepa.org.au

A copy of Mr. Neil Baird's C.V. is attached.

NEIL BAIRD C.V.

NEIL BAIRD is the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Baird Publications which he founded with his wife Rose in 1978.

Baird Publications is one of the world's leading marine publishers, web based information providers and exhibition organisers. The Baird "fleet" includes three monthly magazines, and many other books and market surveys. It also organises a series of highly focussed, high quality exhibitions and conferences for the commercial and military marine and fishing industries. It maintains a number of major marine databases and undertakes marine consulting work.

Neil is a former long standing director of the Australian Shipbuilders Association, a member of the Navy League of Australia's Federal Advisory Council, a Foundation member of the Australian Fisheries Academy and former Secretary of the Australian Maritime Network. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Australian Marine Environment Protection Association. He sails with the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron and Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron.
