

7 October 2009

NISSAN RENEWS MOTORSPORT ASSOCIATION FOR CLASSIC ADELAIDE

Nissan Australia and Glenn Seton will renew their dynamic motorsport partnership after more than two decades when the two-times Australian Touring Car Champion drives a new Nissan 370Z coupe in Classic Adelaide from November 18-22.

Seton, who finished second in the 1987 Touring Car Championship and was unlucky not to win Bathurst the same year in his works Nissan Skyline, will take part in the Classic Adelaide Thoroughbred Touring category.

The 44 year-old will have his first tarmac rally drive at the head of a three-car 370Z entry in the rally to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Nissan Z sports car.

The two-seater Datsun 240Z with its muscular 2.4 litre six cylinder engine, was first displayed at the Tokyo Motor Show in October 1969, with the first examples arriving in Australia in March 1970.

The short and sporty 240Z soon became a champion of Australian grass roots motorsport, with examples still competing regularly in events like Classic Adelaide, Targa Tasmania and in Historic Group Sc racing.

The 370Z, which introduced nine 'Z' iterations in May this year, is the spiritual successor of the 240Z, and is lower, shorter and wider, with a more powerful 3.7 litre engine, than its 350Z predecessor.

Seton will host members of the media and Nissan customers in the passenger seat of his 370Z in Classic Adelaide. The two other 370Z coupes will be driven by the press in the Thoroughbred Tour and Classic Adelaide Tour categories of the four-day tarmac rally.

It will be Seton's first 'factory' drive for Nissan since Bathurst 1988, when he campaigned a six-cylinder turbocharged Nissan HR31 GTS-R. However it was his breathtaking drive at Mt.Panorama in the wet on slick tyres the previous year in the less powerful four-cylinder DR30 Skyline that has immortalised him to YouTube and racing fans.

At Classic Adelaide, Seton will have similar power to his 1987 Bathurst car – 245kW in the new V6-engine naturally aspirated 370Z compared with 246kW in the 2.0 litre turbocharged Skyline – but says the cars are totally different to drive.

"The DR30 was a beast," he recalls after revisiting the car for a guest-drive in an Historic Group A race at Oran Park last year, "but the 370Z is a well-balanced, powerful and thoroughly enjoyable sports coupe. It will be a lot of fun to drive on Classic Adelaide roads."

Nissan's Head of Corporate Communications, Jeff Fisher, said the company was delighted to renew its association with Glenn Seton.

"Glenn, along with Mark Skaife, Jim Richards, John Bowe and George Fury, were amongst the great Australian drivers who raced for Nissan over nearly a decade during the 1980s and early 1990s, scoring numerous touring car successes, including wins at Bathurst and in Australian Touring Car Championship," he said.

"With the R35 Nissan GT-R (and now the new 370Z) we have brought grass-roots motorsport back within the reach of Australian enthusiasts evidence by the many privateer entries in recent competition" he said.

Low resolution image, Glenn Seton in Peter Jackson Skyline, also available for download.

For further information:

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NISSAN BLUE CITIZENSHIP

Nissan is committed to making a better world through its commitment to corporate social responsibility. This includes programs that focus on technological innovations that focus on people and care for the planet. Our vision for zero-emission mobility is an outgrowth of our CSR approach, which we call Blue Citizenship. Together, we are working with our Alliance partner, Renault, to make a better world through zero-emission mobility.

GLENN SETON

Date of Birth: 5 May 1965

Place of Birth: Sydney

Lives: Gold Coast, Queensland

Marital Status: Married, two children

Height: 173cm

Weight: 72kg

Hobbies: Water sports

- 2007 & 08 Drove for Holden Racing Team at the 2 endurance events
- 2006- 3rd Bathurst 1000
- 2004 - 2nd Bathurst 1000
- 2003 - 2nd Bathurst 1000
- 1997 - V8 Supercar Champion
- 1996 - 3rd V8 Supercar Championship
- 1995 - 2nd Australian Touring Car Championship
- 1994 - 2nd Australian Touring Car Championship
- 1993 - Australian Touring Car Champion
- 1990 - Australian Endurance Champion (1st Sandown 500 & 2nd Eastern Creek)
- 1987 - 2nd Australian Touring Car Championship & 2nd Bathurst 1000
- 1981 - 2nd Australian Junior Karting Championship