



AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST DESERT RACE

QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 5-8 JUNE 2015

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### RHODES RACES INTO LEAD ON DAY 1 OF 2015 TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE

South Australians Jack Rhodes and David Pullino driving the #91 PRO Class Jimco Aussie Special Nissan 3500cc buggy have ticked two of the three boxes in their quest to win this year's Tatts Finke Desert Race by arriving in first place at the overnight stop.

The crew set the fastest time in Prologue (qualifying) yesterday and led all the way today on the 226 kilometre journey from the Alice Springs start to Finke in a time of 1 hour 47 minutes 34 seconds.

Second into Finke today was last year's race winners – Victorian son and father combination Shannon and Ian Rentsch #1 PRO Jimco Buggy Nissan 3500cc in a time of 1 hour 49 minutes.

The third fastest time of 2 hours 3 minutes 29 seconds was set by Chris Coulthard/Robert Hawker in the #88 PRO Jimco 2000 Chev 6000 cc.

A notable performance was that of West Australians Beau Robinson/Matt Hanson in the #3 X2WD Geiser Brothers Trophy Truck Chev 6000 cc who started 17<sup>th</sup> and came into Finke fourth in a time of 2 hours 7minutes 20 seconds.

As usual Australia's greatest desert race wracked havoc on the 127 car field: Notable non finishers today included:

- Travis Robinson/Paul Currie in the #13 PRO Class Jimco OBR Nissan 3500cc buggy was out 25 kilometres from the start with mechanical problems.
- Dave Fellows/Mark Bergamin #92 JIMCO 2500 cc 66 kilometres from the start with mechanical problems
- Mark Burrows/Colin Hodge #21 MBR JIMCO 3500cc 172 kilometres from the start with mechanical problems.
- 2012 Tatts Finke Desert Race winner Brad Gallard in the #454 JIMCO X2WD Jimco Toyota 3500cc who was fifth through the Mount Squires checkpoint 172 kilometres from the start but was not at Finke 3 hours after leaving Alice Springs.

After camping overnight the car and buggy field will leave Finke tomorrow (Monday June 8) at 7.15am (CST) for the run home to Alice Springs with the first cars expected to arrive at approx. 9.00 am (CST).

Full results on the event web site: [www.finkedesertrace.com.au](http://www.finkedesertrace.com.au)

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