



**AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST DESERT RACE
QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 9 – 12 JUNE 2017**

10/06/17

Bikes prologue 2017

**ALICE SPRING'S DAVID WALSH STEPS UP A NOTCH TO TAKE FASTEST
BIKE PROLOGUE TIME FOR KTM IN 2017 TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE**

Local Alice Springs rider David Walsh (#3 KTM EXC500) has set the fastest time on the 8.3 kilometre Prologue track for the 2017 Tatts Finke Desert Race.

Walsh's lap was completed in a time of 4 minutes 55.7 seconds, four point eight seconds ahead of #X99 Husqvarna FE450 rider Ivan Long from South Australia who recorded a time of 5 minutes and zero five seconds.

With five time Tatts Finke Desert Race winner Toby Price being side-lined from this year's bike field as a result of injuries sustained at this year's Dakar event, Walsh has certainly stepped up as the KTM 'team leader' with his Prologue time and has placed himself well to have a good chance for victory in this year's race after taking third place outright last year.

Toby Price's Prologue winning time last year was 4 minutes and 58 seconds.

If Walsh wins, he would be the first Alice Springs rider to take victory since Ryan Branford in 2006.

Third fastest today was NT rider Daymon Stokie (#4 Yamaha WR500F) with a time of 5 minutes 3.2 seconds.

Jacob Smith (#X95 Honda CRF450R) prologue in fourth at 5 minutes 4.8 seconds followed by fifth fastest Luke Hayes (#6 KTM EXC500) 5 minutes 6.9 seconds, and Josh Green (#297 Yamaha WR500F) sixth with a time of 5 minutes 9 seconds.

Todd Smith (#7 Honda CRF450R) who won the 2013 event was seventh at 5 minutes 12.5 seconds.



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Football legend and several time Tatts Finke Desert Race competitor Tony Lockett (#804 KTM EXC500) prologued in position 440th with a time of 7minutes 27.9 seconds out a total of 556 bikes that started today.

Tomorrow's (Sunday June 11, 2017) race for bikes commences at 11.30 am for leg 1 of the event that takes the field 226 kilometres from the Alice Springs start to the overnight stop at Finke before returning to Alice Springs on Monday June 12

Full results on the event web site: www.finkedesertrace.com.au

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