



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

Finke Numbers Skyrocket

Media Release | 29th March 2017

Organisers of the Tatts Finke Desert Race today announced that due to overwhelming demand, they have increased the size of the bike field for this year's event.

The 42nd running of Australia's Greatest Desert Race will now see up to 650 riders face the starter's gun on the second Sunday in June. This is an increase on the previous maximum of 600.

"The interest in this year's event is unprecedented with current entries in both fields eclipsing that of the 40th event in 2015", said Finke Desert Race Club President Antony Yoffa.

"We currently have 666 bike entries and 142 car entries received and we are still 10 weeks out from the event. This really is shaping up to be a very exciting year."

Such is the interest and appeal of the event, the top 20 bike finishers from the 2016 event have all re-entered. In addition, reigning champion Toby Price and former champions Todd Smith and Darren Griffiths are back.

"We are again on track see in excess of 50% of the bike field as first time competitors which is great for future return entries", said Mr Yoffa.

"With 88% of the bike field from interstate, we will see a healthy financial boost to the local economy from visiting supporters and crew. I'd expect a \$6M shot in the arm."

In the car section, this year will be the 30th that the cars have been involved in the Finke. As Round 2 of the Australian Off Road Championship the rivalry built up over many years amongst a swag of former champions will again be on show. Those returning include reigning car champion Glen Owen and former champions David Fellows, Mark Burrows, Shannon Rentsch, Hayden Bentley and Greg Gartner.

The full entry lists (and bike waitlist) are published in the results section of www.finkedesertrace.com.au

Entries will close in May.

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