



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

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9/6/17

**A FAMILY AFFAIR FOR THE 2017 FINKE HERO**

Monty Erikson was last night crowned 2017 Finke Hero in recognition of the outstanding work he has done as a volunteer at the Bundooma Checkpoint.

Monty and his wife Hazel have volunteered as Checkpoint Officials for over 30 years. His mother Eileen McCrae was awarded the same honour in 2005 - the first ever Finke Hero.

When asked how he became involved in the Finke Desert Race Monty said:

“Mum needed a hand at Bundooma and asked Hazel and I if we could help and the rest is history. Last year we had four generations on the checkpoint so it is a real family affair”.

Over the years Monty has seen many changes including moving the checkpoint further from the track due to the speed of the cars and bikes.

He said:

“It was more fun in the old days with no technology to assist us. I used to get up at 4.00am to be ready for the first competitors to come through the checkpoint and made sure everyone else was up to help me”.

Previous recipients of the Finke Hero Award are:

2005 Eileen McRae - 2006 Alan Page - 2007 Gary and Lyn Butterfield - 2008 Jol Fleming -  
2009 Jill Brooks - 2010 Sam Cooke - 2011 Bryan Cartwright - 2012 John Mudge –  
2013 Warwick and Marilyn Barrett - 2014 Sally Preece - 2015 Ingrid and Steve Walton –  
2016 Glen Auricht.

Full results and information concerning the 2017 Tatts Finke Desert Race will be on the event web site: [www.finkedesertrace.com.au](http://www.finkedesertrace.com.au)

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