

MEDIA RELEASE
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ACCIONA 100% ECOPOWERED ARRIVES FOR THE TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE

The Acciona 100% EcoPowered has descended on Alice Springs today ahead of its campaign as the first electric rally car to compete in the Tatts Finke Desert Race.

The all-electric rally car – built by Spanish civil works and renewable energy firm Acciona – first made history in 2017, becoming the first zero emissions car to compete at the famed Dakar rally.

The Acciona 100% EcoPowered continues its history-making journey at the Tatts Finke Desert Race, and will be driven by an all-female crew in Andrea Peterhansel and Emma Clair.

Peterhansel, a 10-time Dakar Rally starter and wife of 13-time Dakar winner Stephane, arrived in Alice Springs today after a detour to Uluru, alongside co-pilot and FIM Bajas TT world champion, Clair.

The roll-call of Dakar racers continues in Alice Springs with 2016 champion and five-time Finke 'King of the Desert' Toby Price gearing up for a double campaign at this year's race, competing in both bike and car events.

Price first attempted both car and bike races at Finke in 2016 and came agonisingly close to claiming the double, winning on his bike but finishing runner-up in the cars.

Sidelined from competing on his bike last year due to injury, Price makes a celebrated return to Finke in 2018 to attempt "The Double" for a second-time and become the first to be crowned King of the Desert on both two wheels and four.

Yamaha's Beau Ralston is a late withdrawal for the bikes at this year's Tatts Finke Desert Race, sustaining a broken leg in the lead up to the event. This is the second year in a row injury has hampered Ralston's Finke campaign.

"I'm absolutely gutted that I'll have to sit Finke out again this year with an injury," Ralston said in a statement published to Facebook.

"I'm more prepared to race than [sic] ever and I'll be doing everything I can to be back for the remainder of the season."



Out to defend the four-wheel title is last year's winning father-son duo Shannon and Ian Rentsch from Victoria, flying the flag again for Jimco Aussie Special in their Nissan 3500cc.

Shannon Rentsch is out to achieve a record of his own and eclipse Australian offroad legend Mark Burrows' record five wins, after equalling this achievement last year.

As the world descends on Alice Springs for the Tatts Finke Desert Race, visitors and competitors alike will be welcomed tomorrow night at the inaugural *Finke Street Party & Night Markets*.

The Markets - a new, free and public function - will see Australia's most successful freestyle moto x team *Showtime FMX* performing tricks that will thrill event-goers.

An array of enticing food options and stallholders selling indigenous art, craftworks and handmade clothing will also be on offer at the markets, which has been generously supported by the Alice Springs Town Council.

Official Tatts Finke Desert Race merchandise will also be available for purchase on the night, allowing locals not able to get to the track before the weekend, the opportunity to purchase from the range.

The Tatts Finke Desert Race will take place 8-11 June.

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