

MEDIA RELEASE
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PRICE BLITZES BIKES ON RACE DAY 1 OF THE 2018 TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE

Five-time King of the Desert, **Toby Price** (#295 - *KTM 500 EXC-F*), has blitzed the bike field to arrive at Finke in 1 hour, 57 minutes and 45.6 seconds on Race Day 1 of the 2018 Tatts Finke Desert Race.

Price is on track with his Iron Man Finke Double attempt after finishing second fastest in his truck earlier this morning. The 2016 Dakar champion is aiming to make history by winning both car and bike categories tomorrow.

After a disappointing Prologue, local hero **David Walsh** (#299 - *KTM 500 EXC-F*) moved through the field today to finish in second place at the half way mark, 4 minutes and 12.8 seconds slower than Price.

Geelong's **Callum Norton** (#X98 - *Honda CRF450R*) was the first of the Hondas to make it to Finke, setting a time of 2 hours, 11 minutes and 5.5 seconds on the rough and dusty track.

Jack Simpson (#296 - *KTM 500 EXC-F*) was one of six Victorians to finish in the top ten, coming in fourth ahead of tomorrow's highly-anticipated 2018 edition of the iconic event.

Kent Collins (#4 - *KTM 500 EXC-F*), **Nathan Trigg** (#6 - *Sherco 450 SEF*), **Mark Grove** (#9 - *Honda CRF 259R*), **Angus Gelly** (#221 - *KTM 500 EXC-F*), **Beau Dargel** (#15 - *KTM 500 EXC-F*) and **Brandon Kienhuis** (#H07 - *Husqvarna Fe 501*) rounded out the top ten is what was a difficult day for all riders in 31 degree heat.

2017 runner-up **Ivan Long** (#2 - *Husqvarna FE 450*), who was second off the line this morning, failed to make the 226km journey to Finke with suspected mechanical failure.

Alice Springs local **Luke Hayes** (#3 - *KTM 500 EXC-F*) also failed to finish, however not all was lost and he was able to salvage fellow Territorian **Lachy Summers'** (#11 *KTM 500 EXC-F*) race by giving him a front tyre on the side of the road. Summers went on to arrive at the final checkpoint in 16th place.

Full results for the 583-strong field can be found here: finkedesertrace.com.au



After camping overnight, the bikes will leave Finke tomorrow (Monday) morning at 11.45am CST for the run back to the Alice Springs finish with the first bikes expected to arrive at approximately 2.05pm CST.

- ENDS -

For more information, please contact

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