

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
10 June 2018

## **SHANNON AND IAN RENTSCH ON TRACK TO DEFEND FINKE TITLE**

Reigning Kings of the Desert, **Shannon and Ian Rentsch** (#33 - *Jimco Aussie Special Nissan 3500cc*), have maintained top spot as the lead car into Finke for the overnight stop of Australia's toughest off-road race, the Tatts Finke Desert Race.

The father-son duo, hailing from Warrnambool, Victoria, set an impressive sub-two hour time in warm conditions this morning, making the trek in 1 hour 47 minutes and 57.7 seconds.

Minutes later, 2016 Dakar champion and Finke Iron Man hopeful **Toby Price** (#487 *2017 Geiser built 6L V8 Chev 360cc*) crossed the line in second place nursing a beaten truck with a loose passenger side door.

Price, alongside navigator **Jason Duncan**, prologued fourth on Saturday and finished day one with a gap of 2 minutes 59.3 seconds to the leaders upon arrival at Finke.

2011 Tatts Finke Desert Race winner **Greg Gartner**, alongside **Jamie Jennings** and Mark Hannaford (#410 *Geiser Bros Ford Raptor TT Ford 6000cc*), rounded out the top three to arrive at the final checkpoint today.

Just seconds behind Gartner was five-time winner **David Fellows with Gregory Rhodes and Mark Bergamin** (#492 *Geiser Bros Trophy Truck Nissan 3500cc*) in fourth after moving through the field from a Prologue position of 17th.

Queensland's **Talbot Cox and Andrew North** (#16 *Racer Engineering Carbon Series Toyota 5600cc*) came in to Finke in fifth position, followed by **Michael Marson and Chris Colbourne** (#32 *Racer Engineering Carbon Series Ford Windsor 6000cc*) in sixth.

After rolling their (#91 - *Jimco Aussie Special Nissan*) in Prologue, **Jack Rhodes and David Pullino** crossed the line at Finke in seventh position. Rhodes and Pullino will be hoping to move through the field tomorrow to better their third place finish in 2017.

**Ryan Taylor, Nev Taylor and Wayne Bell** (#24 *Tatum AK47 Chev 6000cc*) finished in eighth position with **Shawn and Robert Swaffield** (#110 *Alumicraft Australian VQ35 3500cc*) coming in ninth.



Off road legend **Mark Burrows** and navigator **Colin Hodge** (#21 - *Jimco MBR Holden 3500cc*) rounded out the top ten for day one with a time of 2 hours, 10 minutes and 40 seconds.

West Australia's **Beau Robinson and Shane Hutt** (#413 - *Geiser Bros TT Chev 6000cc*), who started second off the line this morning, failed to make it to Finke today with mechanical issues.

Three-time bike winner **Phil Lovett** and the competition's first all-electric car, the Acciona 100% Ecopower, steered by **Andrea Peterhansel and Emma Clair**, also failed to finish today's 226km journey.

Full results for the 130-strong field can be found here: [finkedesertrace.com.au](http://finkedesertrace.com.au)

After camping overnight, the car and buggy field will leave Finke tomorrow (Monday) morning at 7.15am CST for the run back to the Alice Springs finish with the first cars expected to arrive at approximately 9.05am CST.

- ENDS -

For more information, please contact

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