

MEDIA RELEASE
Sunday, 9 June 2019

TOBY PRICE ON TRACK TO CREATE HISTORY AT THE 2019 TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE

Red Bull racer, Toby Price (#487 Geiser Brothers Trophy Truck), has reached the Finke checkpoint the fastest on Race Day 1, as he looks to create history and become the first-ever competitor to be crowned the King of the Desert in the car category and bike category.

The six-time winner of the bike category set an impressive 1 hour 44 minutes and 12 seconds as he made his way through central Australia on four wheels, alongside Navigator Jason Duncan.

Price has restricted himself to a cars-only tilt of the 2019 race, as he nurses his wrist back from injury sustained during his win of the iconic Dakar Rally earlier this year.

Despite an epic rollover in Prologue yesterday, the pairing of Jack Rhodes and David Pullino (#91 Jimco Aussie Special) from Adelaide, SA bounced back to reach the Finke checkpoint in the second fastest time on Day 1.

Starting the morning from position 14, the 2018 podium finishes (3rd) completed the day with a gap of 7 minutes 44.4 seconds to the leaders upon arrival at Finke.

The distance to third is less than a minute with duo Beau Robinson and Shane Hutt (#413 Geiser Brothers Trophy Truck) rounding out the top three times at the final checkpoint today.

The pair from Perth, WA finished Day 1 with a gap of 8 minutes and 9.9 seconds to the leaders and will be hoping to hunt down Price tomorrow to take out the elusive King of the Desert title, after five previous podium finishes at Australia's toughest off-road race.

NSW's Josh Howells and Eric Hume (#3 Jimco Aussie Special) were a further 2 minutes and 27 seconds behind in fourth place, dropping a spot in the field from a Prologue position of 3rd.

Moving through the field and finishing Day 1 in fifth position, Ryan Taylor along with Nev Taylor and Adam McGuire (#24 Tatum AK47) climbed 10 positions with Brent Martin and Andre de Simone (#120 Jimco) mirroring that effort to improve from 16th to 6th at the halfway point of the two-day race.

After just missing the podium in 2018, Talbot Cox and Craig King (#16 Racer Engineering) are currently in seventh, around 14 minutes behind the leader.

Off-road legend Mark Burrows along with navigator Matthew Burrows (#21 MBR Jimco Buggy) finished in eighth position with Dale Martin and Adrian Rowe (#133 Tatum) coming in ninth.

A flat tyre halted defending champions and six-time King of the Deserts, Shannon and Ian Rentsch (#1 Jimco Buggy) during the final leg of the day between the Mt Squires and Finke checkpoints.

The father-son duo will start the return journey tomorrow from tenth, a gap of 17 minutes 24.4 seconds to Price in first position.

2012 King of the Desert Brad Gallard (#454 Geiser Brothers Trophy Truck) suffered power steering issues during leg one, and will work feverishly overnight to rectify the issue and complete the return journey from Finke to Alice Springs on Race Day 2.

Full results for the 140-strong car field can be viewed [here](#).

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.

The 2019 Kings of the Desert for the car category will be crowned when the field completes their return journey from Finke to Alice Springs tomorrow.

The bike category got underway at 11.45am local time today, with the first bike due into Finke at approximately 1.45pm.

The 2019 Tatts Finke Desert Race is held in Alice Springs on the Queen's Birthday weekend from 6-10 June 2019.

2019 is the 20th year of Tatts' naming-rights partnership of the Finke Desert Race.

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