



MEDIA RELEASE

June 7, 2014

‘COMEBACK KID’ TOBY PRICE SETS FASTEST PROLOGUE BIKE TIME FOR 2014 TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE

Toby Price from Maitland in NSW has returned to the Tatts Finke Desert Race in spectacular fashion by setting the fastest bike prologue time today.

Price who has won the Australian classic desert race on two occasions (2010, 2012) was a non-starter last year as a result of serious injury when he broke three bones in his neck while practicing for the Baja 500 in the USA.

His time today aboard the #299 KTM 500 EXC was 5 minutes and 14 seconds. Ivan Long (#5 KTM 500 EXC) from Tanunda in South Australia and Daymon Stokie (#X97 Honda CRF450) from Alice Springs in the NT both recorded a time of 5 minutes and 16 seconds to gain second and third spots.

Long finished fifth outright in last year's event while Stokie was sixth home in the race in 2012.

Fourth and fifth spots in prologue went to Alice Springs rider David Walsh (#X94 Honda CRF450) and Bathurst's Ben Grabham (#11 KTM 500 EXC) who both completed the course in a time of 5 minutes 18 seconds.

Last year's bike winner Todd Smith from Condobolin in NSW (#1 Honda CRF450R) prologued in 6th position with a time of 5 minutes and 19 seconds, while his brother Jacob (#2 Honda CRF450R) who was on the podium in second position in 2013 was in 10th position today stopping the clocks at 5 minutes and 24 seconds.

Michael Walsh from Alice Springs (#13 Honda CRF) was awarded seventh position with a time of 5 minutes and 19 seconds.

Alice Springs riders Caleb Auricht (#7 Honda CRF450R) and Jack Dooley-McDonnell (#6 Honda CRF450) finished eighth and ninth respectively making it a good day for local competitors.

A total of 418 riders took part in today's prologue.

Last year's (2013) fastest prologue time was 5 minutes and 13 seconds recorded by Jacob Smith (Honda CRF450R).

(Cont.)



Tatts has been the naming rights sponsor of this NT Tourism Award winning event since 2000.



Tomorrow's (Sunday June 8, 2014) race for bikes commences at 12 noon for leg 1 of the event that takes the field 226 kilometres from the Alice Springs start to the overnight stop at Finke before returning to Alice Springs on Monday June 9.

Full results on the event web site: www.finkedesertrace.com.au

For Further information contact:

Mike Drewer mobile: 0419 273 333 e m.drewer@bigpond.com

or

Penny Gordon m 0408 842 363 e pgordon@picknowl.com.au



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