



AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST DESERT RACE

QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 5-8 JUNE 2015

28<sup>th</sup> January 2015

## Media Release

### Bike entries fill in one day

Organisers of the 40<sup>th</sup> Tatts Finke Desert Race were overwhelmed with competitor enquiries when entries opened yesterday.

Within the first hour more than 300 people had entered on-line and by the end of the day, 640 had lodged an entry and paid their entry fee.

"This is an overwhelming response to a call for entries" said Antony Yoffa, President of the Finke Desert Race Club.

"Never before have we seen such interest in this race and we are well on the way to having the biggest bike field in history".

Competitor numbers have been capped at 600, so a waitlist has been established for those that missed the initial acceptances. Where competitors withdraw in the coming months for various reasons, those on the waitlist are elevated into the field.

"History has shown that 10-15% of competitors who enter in January will withdraw before the close of entries in May. Just 36 hours after entries opened, there were already 65 on the waitlist", said Mr Yoffa.

Of last year's top 20 finishers, 17 have entered including three time winner and defending bike champion Toby Price. Price has won this event in 2010, 2012 and 2014 and recently finished third in the Dakar rally – the toughest rally in the world.

Six former winners have entered with the perennial Phil Lovett back for another tilt at an event he made his in the early 80's. Phil was the 'King of the Desert' in 1981, 1982 and 1985. He is joined by Rick Hall (1999, 2002), Darren Griffiths (2003), Ryan Branford (2006) Todd Smith (2013) and Toby Price.

Entrant list (and waitlist) is published in the results section of [finkedesertrace.com.au](http://finkedesertrace.com.au)  
Car entries will open in March.

The Tatts Finke Desert Race is held on the 5-8<sup>th</sup> June in Alice Springs.

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