

AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST DESERT RACE QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 9 – 12 JUNE 2017

11/6/17

'HALF THE JOB DONE' AS DAVID WALSH LEADS THE WAY INTO FINKE FOR KTM

Local hero David Walsh was super-fast in the bike division today propelling his #3 KTM EXC500 down the track in first spot giving himself a strong chance of being the first Alice Springs rider to take the Tatts Finke Desert Race title since Ryan Branford won in 2006.

Walsh, who placed third last year was the only rider to crack the two hour barrier, with a time of 1 hour 58 minutes 4.8 seconds and is KTM's lead rider in the absence of Toby Price who has been side-lined for the year's bike event following injuries sustained in Dakar.

Second and third into Finke were also Northern Territory riders, namely Daymon Stokie (#4 Yamaha WR500F), followed by Luke Hayes (#6 KTM EXC500).

Stokie's time was 2 hours 3minutes 49.9 seconds with Hayes taking 2 hours 8 minutes 37.6 seconds.

In fourth position was Kent Collins (#12 KTM EXC500) from South Australia coming in at 2 hours 13 minutes 2.3 seconds, placing him well up the field compared to his runs in 2015 and 2016.

The big loser was the man who started second on the grid, South Australian rider Ivan Long, suffering a puncture on his Husqvarna FE450 (#X99) forcing him to ride a considerable distance on a bare rim.

He did however recover well in the second part of the course to come into Finke fifth fastest with a time of 2 hours 13 minutes 51.4 seconds.

Jacob Smith (#X95 Honda CRF450R), who started in fourth position this morning, was a DNF with mechanical issues.

After camping over night the bike field will leave Finke tomorrow (Monday June 12) at 11.45am CST for the home run to Alice Springs with the first competitors expected to arrive at approximately. 2.00pm CST.

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

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David Walsh



























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Luke Hayes





















