

MEDIA RELEASE
23rd May 2018**HAZELWOOD TO COMPETE IN 2018 TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE**

Father of Supercars driver Todd Hazelwood is set to make his return to competitive motorsport, as Russel Hazelwood prepares to compete in the 2018 Tatts Finke Desert Race in three weeks' time.

Russell, who grew up desert bike racing in the Murray Mallee region in South Australia, will enter the Over 45's class in what has been a lifelong dream of his to compete at the event.

He will also run number 35, which is Todd's Supercars race number.

"There's 106 in our class, so it'll be interesting to see what my competition's like in the class, but I am sure we'll have a lot of fun," Russell said.

"The bike is a 2017 KTM 350, it's been modified for the event ... it's got 60-plus horsepower so it's quite exciting to ride. I'm simply stoked to bring it all together."

First year full time Supercars driver Todd is ecstatic to see his father Russell make his return to competitive motorsport, and is planning to be in Alice Springs cheering on his father.

"It's cool to see Dad do something that he loves and enjoys ... now to actually go out and support him is pretty special considering over the last 16 years he's been by my side as well as my Mum and my sister making this all happen," Todd said.

With the race just over three weeks away, President of the Finke Desert Race Club, Antony Yoffa, says this year's event is going to be one of the best yet.

"2018 is going to be a massive event for all involved - from spectators to competitors and volunteers, we're looking forward to another successful Tatts Finke Desert Race.

"Russell and his family are going to be blown away with their first event and will no doubt have an amazing weekend along with all those attending this year," Yoffa said.

The Hazelwood family will be at this year's Tatts Finke Desert Race, running across the June long weekend on 8-11 June.

Once the off road event is over, the family will travel further north to Darwin for Todd's next Supercars event, with the CrownBet Darwin Triple Crown on 15-17 June at Hidden Valley Raceway.

ENDS**For more information, please contact Betty Heaslip on 0412 457 312**