

MEDIA RELEASE
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O'CONNOR CROWNED INAUGURAL KAY WHARTON FASTEST FEMALE CATEGORY WINNER

Ellyse O'Connor (#486 - *Yamaha YZ250F*) has won the inaugural '**Kay Wharton Fastest Female Category**' at the 2018 Tatts Finke Desert Race.

The category - honouring former Race Doctor and five-time Finke finisher, Kay Wharton - aims to acknowledge the enormous contribution women make to the Tatts Finke Desert Race, and awards the top three female finishers across all bike classes this year.

O'Connor, hailing from Rockhampton, was crowned the inaugural winner of the new award at the Official Presentation Night following the race on Monday.

"That was ridiculous!" O'Connor laughed as she received the inaugural award. "I was warned that it (Finke) was tough and the dust was just phenomenal... that was the hardest thing I have ever done!"

The 2018 Tatts Finke Desert Race was O'Connor's first off-road race to compete in and has since confirmed she will be returning to defend her title in 2019.

"I had a few crashes coming home and I thought I will never ever come back ... but now, I am already planning next year!"

West Australia's **Kathryn Scoble** (#434 - *Honda CRF250R*) and Moree's **Julie Denyer** (#622 - *KTM 350 EXC-F*) were second and third respectively.

Full race results for the 2018 Tatts Finke Desert Race can be found via finkedesertrace.com.au

The Tatts Finke Desert Race was held 8-11 June 2018 in the Northern Territory.

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For more information, please contact

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