

MEDIA RELEASE
9 June 2018

SHANNON RENTSCH PROLOGUES FASTEST AHEAD OF THE 2018 TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE

2017 Kings of the Desert, **Shannon and Ian Rentsch** (#33- *Jimco Aussie Special Nissan 3500cc*), have set the fastest lap in Prologue today, securing top spot in tomorrow's starting order for the 2018 Tatts Finke Desert Race.

The father and son duo set the pace this morning with a remarkable time of 4 minutes 44.4 seconds around the 8.3km Prologue track, 5.7 seconds faster than last year's pole position.

The Rentsch's quick time today continues their form in the Desert, with the Victorians gunning for a record sixth Finke crown title in 2018.

West Australia's **Beau Robinson and Shane Hutt** (#413 - *Geiser Bros TT Chev 6000cc*) were 5.2 seconds adrift of the pole setters, securing second place in the starting line up tomorrow.

Robinson and Hutt will be hoping to go one better than their 2017 campaign at the Tatts Finke Desert Race, that saw them finish in second place.

2011 winner **Greg Gartner** alongside **Jamie Jennings and Mark Hannaford** (#410 - *Geiser Bros Ford Raptor TT Ford 6000cc*) rounded out the top three today to start third in tomorrow's race.

2016 Dakar Champion and Finke Iron Man hopeful **Toby Price** (#487 - *2017 Geiser built 6L V8 Chev 360cc*) kick-started his campaign with fourth place in the Prologue alongside navigator **Jason Duncan**.

The Prologue session was interrupted when South Australia's **Jack Rhodes and David Pullino** (#91) rolled their *Jimco Aussie Special Nissan 3500cc* hampering the start of their 2018 campaign.

Josh Howells and Bryan Erskine (#15) in the second *Jimco Aussie Special Nissan (3480cc)* set the fifth fastest lap ahead of **Matt Hanson and Nigel Pendlebury** (#7 - *SMU Jimco 2011 Ford 3500cc*) in sixth.

Close behind in seventh place was **Michael Marson and Chris Colbourne** (#32 *Racer Engineering Carbon Series Ford Windsor 6000cc*) who edged out **Talbot Cox and Andrew North** (#16 - *Racer Engineering Carbon Series Toyota 5600cc*) in eighth place by 2.6 seconds.



Rounding out the top ten were **John Towers and Bruce Young** (#27 - *JT JT Lustrum Honda 3200cc*) in ninth position followed by **Raana Horan and Klem Christiansen** (#89- *Jimco Turbo Pro Buggy Nissan 3500cc*) in tenth place.

The competition's first all-electric car, the Acciona 100% Ecopower, finished 113th on debut at the Tatts Finke Desert Race steered by **Andrea Peterhansel and Emma Clair**.

Full results for the 130-strong field can be found via finkedesertrace.com.au

The lights will go out for leg one of the car event at the 2018 Tatts Finke Desert Race at 7.45am (CST) tomorrow. The field will travel 226km to Finke before returning on Monday 11 June to crown the 2018 King of the Desert.

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For more information, please contact

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