Finke fever hits top speed

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“I love the whole thing. It is all good — the food, the coffee and the racing,” she said.

The move of scrutineering for the 2016 Tatts Finke Desert Race to the start/finish area from Blatherskite on Friday was well received by fans, officials and the food and drink stall holders.

“The atmosphere and everything is fantastic,” Raines said. “Finke fever is definitely back and bigger than ever.

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The stall holders were particular pleased as it meant they only had to set up in one place instead of relocating late on Friday.

Alice Springs Scouts group leader Steve Ashley hailed the new arrangement.

“There are more stalls, so a greater variety the public,” he said. “In past years, some of the stalls packed up after scrutineering and did not come down to the Prologue or race days but I have heard a number of them have asked to continue through.

“This is our 11th year of catering at Finke and we are using it as a fundraiser for scouts to go to the jamboree in New Zealand.

“It is fantastic not to move as we were able to get to bed at midnight rather than 2am on Friday night.” There are about 60 scouts and leaders in the Alice Springs Scouts Group.

FDR Club president Antony Yoffa said there was an estimated crowd of 6000 at the Friday night event.

They enjoyed walking among the cars and bikes after they were put through their checks for the race.

A live concert by Ian Moss, to launch his new album, followed the formal scrutineering. Moss said it was great to be back in his birthplace to release his new album, Nashville Sessions.

He also joined in the Black Dog Ride to Alice Springs to help raise awareness and funds to battle depression and suicide prevention.