



SADDLING UP: WRC drivers Mads Ostberg, Dani Sordo, Ott Tanak and Andreas Mikkelsen ride horses at Boambee Beach.

PHOTOS: TREVOR VEALE

Saddling up to take on the race demons

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IT WOULD appear the bad luck of 2015 hit Norwegian M-Sport driver Mads Ostberg a little earlier this year, which might help him get a better result.

In last year's Australian round of the WRC, Ostberg crashed his car into a timber truck during the reconnaissance drive and was unable to compete.

But this year's WRC omen struck Ostberg during the second-last round of the championship in Wales where his co-driver, Ole Floene, was bitten by an adder.

"We were actually lucky it wasn't two weeks later,"

Ostberg said.

With Australia home to many of the world's most venomous snakes, Ostberg was relieved the incident didn't happen in Coffs Harbour.

He will now set his sights on actually making the start in this year's Australian round.

Ostberg saddled up alongside fellow WRC drivers Andreas Mikkelsen, Dani Sordo and Ott Tanak on Monday for a horseback ride on Boambee Beach.

Last year drivers took to the water on surfboards, so to Ostberg's relief he was glad to have some extra height over any sharks which were swimming in the

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— Mads Ostberg

breakers.

"It feels a lot safer being in the water on top of horses," he said.

The European drivers took the time to adjust themselves to the different time zone and the warmer conditions.

Sordo said the temperatures were much hotter in Coffs Harbour than last year, as the race was in



Dani Sordo, Andreas Mikkelsen, Ott Tanak and Mads Ostberg show off their best John Wayne impression.

September.

Tanak said these conditions would force drivers to be more cautious.

"It's more challenging for the cars and tyres," he said.

Mikkelsen currently sits third on the overall WRC standings with 129 points, while Sordo sits in fifth with 119, Ostberg in seventh on 94 and Tanak in eighth on 82.

Shootings strike force

DETECTIVES have formed a strike force to investigate two recent shootings in the Nambucca Heads area.

During the evening of Friday, October 28, a firearm was discharged into a home in Palmer St, Nambucca Heads.

Police investigations revealed the firearm, believed to be a .22 calibre, was fired through the front window of the residence.

Fortunately no one was injured as a result of the shooting.

In a second incident on Sunday, November 6 a man was shot outside a Raleigh St, Nambucca Heads address.

A 21-year-old man sustained a significant gunshot injury to his stomach by what police believe to be a .22 calibre firearm. The man underwent surgery at Coffs Harbour Base Hospital as a result.

Strike Force Clavering has been established to investigate both incidents.

Share your Christmas

AUSTRALIANS are being called on to share their Christmas giving by donating new toys and books to disadvantaged children.

The national children's education charity's annual Toy & Book Appeal needs 45,000 new toys and 30,000 new books to deliver to families in need across the country this December.

The Smith Family's New South Wales General Manager, Annette Young said "by sharing your Christmas giving and donating to our Toy & Book Appeal, you will help bring a smile to a disadvantaged child's face on Christmas morning."

Ways to get involved

- Donate a new toy or book
- Register to run a toy or book collection in your community or office
- Make a cash gift through our website, or by calling 1800 024 069

To register or donate, visit thesmithfamily.com.au/christmas

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1KG BAG

Kensington Pride
Mangoes

\$1.99
EACH

Danish
Feta

99¢
PER 100G

Strawberries

\$1.99
PUNNET 250G

Carrots

99¢
1KG BAG

Delverde Baby
Gnocchi

\$2.99
EACH 500G

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