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Media Release

Goodyear Wrangler MT/Rs break altitude record

Goodyear, who was the first tyre on the moon, the first tyre to go over 600mph and the first radial tyres for commercial aircraft, is again writing the history books after a Jeep Wrangler with its MT/R tyres recently achieved a world record for the highest altitude ever reached by a four-wheeled vehicle.

The Jeep Wrangler Unlimited vehicles carried a team, led by adventurer Matthias Jeschke, to the rim of Ojos del Salado in Chile, the world's highest volcano. The team drove the two vehicles to an altitude of 6,646 meters (21,804 feet) above sea level. The record has been certified by Guinness World Records.

Ojos del Salado is recognised as the second highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere, and is now dubbed the "highest parking lot in the world."

During the trip, the team endured hurricane-strength winds, temperatures as low as -30 degrees C (-22 degrees F) and thin air at the high altitudes. The tyres, more specifically, had to perform among an environment of slick glaciers, fissured rock cliffs and rough volcanic sand.

Upon reaching the high point, which straddles two South American countries, Jeschke's said in his journal: "One tyre in Argentina – one tyre in Chile. I am sure that this mark will not be broken in any time. We exceeded our own targets. We are really, really exhausted and just returned to the base camp. Nobody is injured, no vehicle destroyed, no single tyre damaged. It was really incredible."

A Jeep associate's description of the journey stated, "It was here that the vehicles' 3.8L V-6 engines and Goodyear's MT/R tyres proved their true capability...."

The Wrangler MT/R, Goodyear's superior traction tyre for off-road enthusiasts, features Goodyear's exclusive Durawall Technology that helps resist punctures and cuts.

The world of off-road driving has come a long way since the first 4x4 rolled off the production line more than 60 years ago. Since then, mechanical advances has enabled these incredible machines to conquer ever more arduous conditions and increasingly hostile environments: from the snow covered peaks of Europe to the parched Australian Outback, the flood plains of Africa to the rocky canyons of America.

Throughout the years, however, none of this progress would have been possible without equal strides being taken in tyre technology. Awesome amounts of power, performance and handling demand awesome amounts of traction and, throughout history, Goodyear has been at the forefront of providing it.

The Goodyear Wrangler MT/R is the next milestone on this off-road odyssey. Thirty-six years after putting the first tyre on the moon, the Wrangler MT/R has been developed to overcome some of the most demanding terrain on Earth.

Perfected on the unforgiving rock beds of the Moab and at Goodyear's mud-pit proving grounds in San Angelo, Texas, the Wrangler MT/R has earned the right to be called the toughest off-road tyre ever.

Outside, it uses an aggressive tread design that overhangs the sidewall to provide added grip when you need it most. Inside, advanced compounds combine with the patented Durawall construction to provide supreme cut, tear and puncture resistance on even the most extreme of treks.

In Australia, the National Off-Road Championship is made up of desert races ranging from 300 to 500 kilometres in length. The races themselves are made up of a variety of terrains including the deep sand dunes accustomed with the Simpson Desert and the harsh Finke desert race in Alice Springs where vehicles race across rocks jutting out of the ground, extremely slippery gravel roads and black mud.

Chris Western, Driver/Director for National Off Road Championship team Off Road Rush explains: "The Goodyear Wrangler's performance is awesome. The races are made up of various terrains. The MT/R grips unreal in the mud, they aren't skatey on the gravel roads and they plough through sand with ease. The MT/R is perfect for racing in all conditions. We don't have to change tyres for a particular terrain.

"It's great when you hear from other people their experience with the performance of the MT/R on their 4WD and most of our customers can't believe the grip the buggies have on the various tracks. Our team members sometimes have a laugh about how good it is when driving in the mud."

When asked would he recommend Goodyear he said: "We already do because I know they work. Race teams and 4WD enthusiasts have changed over to the MT/R because of the results we have had as we use them every day and race them.

"We have found the best tyre for our business and racing the MT/R hasn't let us down," said Chris.

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About Goodyear

Goodyear is one of the world's largest tyre companies. The company manufactures tyres, engineered rubber products, and chemicals in more than 90 facilities in 28 countries around the world. Goodyear employs more than 75,000 people worldwide.

The Goodyear tyre range incorporates technology and advances in tyre design gathered from Goodyear's research and development teams located around the world. The company manufactures tyres for many applications including car, van, truck, farm, earthmover and aviation.

For more information on Goodyear, visit www.goodyear.com.au