

Quiet achiever with need for speed

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Journalist: Jenny Oldland

Minlaton's Simon Cook is the ultimate quiet achiever.

Not many outside his immediate circle would know that aboard his Honda he more than holds his own against some of the best motorcycle riders in Australia.

Involved in historic road racing for the last 15 years, Simon has raced at Mallala, Mt Gambier's McNamara Park, Phillip Island, Wanneroo in Western Australia and Symmons Plains in Tasmania.

Along the way he's won several South Australian championships, the prestigious Ken Blake Memorial Trophy four times, the Phillip Island 'Island Classic' twice against international riders, and has twice been runner-up in the Australian championships.



Minlaton rider Simon Cook on his way to victory in January's Unlimited Post Classic at Philip Island.

In January he won the Unlimited Post Classic race at Philip Island.

While racing was something he always wanted do when he was younger, Simon says a midlife crisis in his thirties and the extra money he had when he gave up smoking bought his first race bike.

"I've always had an unhealthy obsession with bikes, as a 4 year old I was already buying bike magazines for the pictures. My Dad, Max, had a Norton and sidecar, and I grew up hearing all the stories so the interest was always there," he said.

His current race bike, a 1972 Honda CV 750, falls in the Period 4 Unlimited category (capacity up to 1300cc), and on the main straight a Phillip Island reaches speeds of between 230-240 kilometres per hour. At Mallala it is about 200km/h.

For the full report, see the print issue of this week's YP Country Times.

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