

SKETCHY BY NAME

BUT NOT BY NATURE

Words: Glen Williams Pics: Dallas Alexander & Glen Williams

Glen Skachill is one of a new breed of road-racers coming through the system. In his short career thus far he has had some big results and made an impact at club level and recently at national level. We asked Glen Williams to have a chat with this rising talent and get the low down on his current and future plans.

I didn't know much about Glen Skachill aka 'Sketchy', until this past year's national road race series where I got to race against the lad himself in the Formula 3 class. It was plainly obvious that he had a talent to ride a bike quickly and consistently, so it was good to catch up with him again at a recent Victoria Club's race winter series race meet on a cold damp winter's day and check up on his progress.

Glen's dad (Malcolm) is a motorcycle enthusiast and owns a road bike – but his mum was not keen on them

so in the early days this motorcycle racing lark was a moot point within the family. This did not quell the enthusiasm of Glen and at the age 15 he managed to acquire himself a bucket racer after his mate Bayden took him to a local race meeting and thus his journey began. "We used to all head off to the General Motors car park in Upper Hutt, Wellington mostly and race buckets whenever we could, it taught me a lot about racing in close proximity to other riders and how to be smooth and maximise what little power we had to play with."



He stuck with the bucket racing for a couple of seasons and at one of these meetings Doug Juggins offered him a ride at Manfeild on a Suzuki RG150 streetstock bike.

He loved it and not long after he had his own Kawasaki 150 road bike converted into a race bike (after crashing it on the road a bit too much). He completed the winter streetstock series that year on it.

"The 150 was cool and riding on a proper racetrack was clearly the way to go." The only problem is that if he was to persevere with racing he was going to have to pay for everything himself and thus pretty much every cent he earned went into his racing passion. He won the 150 Streetstock Championship in 2006 and finished second in the 250 class on the same bike.

At the end of 2006 he really wanted to move up to a proper race bike as Glen explains, "I got all of my stuff together and sold literally every single thing I owned, including some stuff I didn't really own as well (laughs). This

QUICK FIRE STATS:

Age: 19
 Weight/Height: 65kg/178cm
 Marital Status/Children: Taken, and certainly not old enough to be a parent!
 Occupation: Engineering Apprentice
 First bike: Kawasaki KH100
 Home base: Kapiti Coast
 Favourite track: Ruapuna
 Favourite band/music: Old School Rock.
 Favourite Movie: Is a MotoGP race a movie?
 Other hobbies: Bucket race bike building, two-stroke engine tuning
 Most respected road racer: I can't choose, there's so many top guys' out there!
 Dream broly dolly: Only one???? I can't pick...
 Best race advice given: To finish first, first you must finish.
 Best race advice to give: Just get out there and give it your best!



