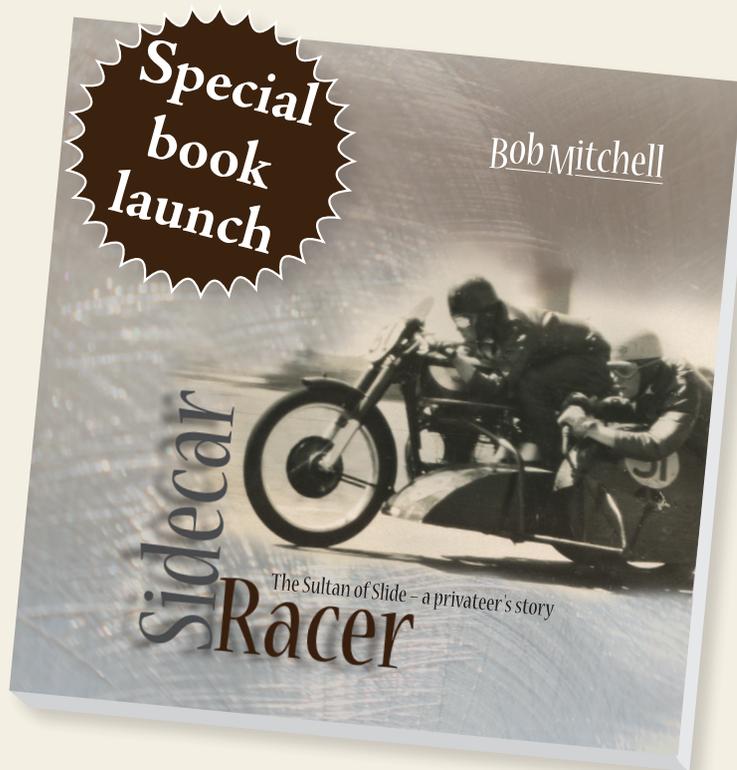


Invitation

to the launch of the book about Bob Mitchell, a Gold Coaster with a fascinating history...

The Sultan of Slide – a privateer's story



The story of Australian sidecar racer Bob Mitchell

The book *The Sultan of Slide – a privateer's story* details the racing career of Bob Mitchell, the most successful Australian sidecar racer at a Grand Prix level in the history of international sidecar racing.

He was fourth in the world championships in 1956, the highest ranking ever achieved by an Australian sidecar racer.

In Australia, Bob's win with a 500cc sidecar of an unlimited event at Bathurst has never been repeated.

Bob was dubbed 'The Sultan of Slide' by racing writers and contemporaries because of his unerring control around tight corners, often beginning his slide well before the corner.

This tactic was praised by racing experts. After Bob won the Victorian TT in 1957, the great engine tuner Phil Irving said that Bob's sliding and throttle response was so smooth he couldn't tell when he started the slide and when he finished the slide and that it was the best display of sidecar riding he had ever seen.

The book contains close to 500 photos, media clippings diary entries and letters, most of which have never been published.

The Sultan of Slide - a privateer's story was written by Bob's only son Mark Mitchell, himself an early motorcycle racer, drawing on his long conversations with Bob, meticulously

kept records and photographs, some not discovered until after Bob's death. He captures the emotion and the thrills of the European Grand Prix Circus and the politics of big-time racing.

The result is a gripping read from a son who was actually born on the European circuit while his father thrilled the crowds.

Mark's mother, Jean, the Norton office secretary who shared Bob's life, contributed many fond memories of the Continental Circus years to this book.

**Friday 10 May, 6.30pm for 7pm start
Southport Branch Library, Cnr Lawson &
Garden Streets, Southport.**

RSVP by Monday 6 May to:

Alison Crisp

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Motorcycle and rider safety was Bob Mitchell's passion, and the Mitchell family together with the publication team at SuperCool Franchising Pty Ltd will donate a percentage of profits from the sale of this book *The Sultan of Slide – a privateer's story* to selected Australian organisations promoting motorcycle safety in Australia.