Single-minded way to cycle

WHAT has one wheel and scoots around at 15km/h – and takes very little skill to ride?

It's the Micycle, an electric unicycle weighing less than 25kg, the creation of Adelaide University mechanical engineering students. Unlike a regular unicycle which is pedal-powered and kept upright by the skill of the rider, the Micycle has an electric motor and uses a control system to keep its balance.

The gadget also contains a motion sensor which lets the rider control the speed by leaning forward to accelerate and back to brake, while foot rests are used to steer.

Other features include fall detection and automatic shut-off, audio warnings on motor saturation and low battery signals.

Watched by engineering colleagues Miro Jerbic (left), David Caldecott and Andrew Kadis as he demonstrated the Micycle yesterday, designer Rhys Madigan said it cost about $2800 to make the Micycle.

"We did it more for the fun of it, it was a different type of design challenge for us," Mr Madigan said.

The Micycle will be on display at the 2010 Adelaide University Mechanical Engineering Exhibition, at the Wayville Showgrounds, on October 26 and 27.

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