



# ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE CITY

Making a difference in our world

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Waitakere 0654

[www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz](http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz)

## 2010 Soapbox Derby Newsletter #2 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010



Dear School and Sponsors,

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new sponsors and schools.

Please copy this newsletter and distribute to all of the people involved in the event. If you have changes for emails or others you would like to add let Heather know so the mailing list can be amended.

Firstly **DON'T PANIC!!!**

### The Derby Event

The 7th Great Western Soapbox Derby will be held at Westgate Drive on Sunday 21st March 2010 commencing at 8.00am

### Proposed Race Day Times

8am	Setup	
9am to 12 noon	Local Races	
12 noon to 1pm	Lunch Break	Displays, stalls, events etc
1pm to 3pm	Local Finals	
3:30pm	Prize Giving	

### Race Draws

A full race draw will be issued to you once we have received all team details from all the schools

### Teams and Cars

The first step in this project is the formation of the school racing team – see later details.

This project is a wonderful opportunity for children to get hands on experience on mechanical construction, use computer skills to obtain valuable information from the USA, and apply practical graphic art skills for car preparation in conjunction with sponsors.

Most of you will still have your cars from last year – most will need work, new sponsors signage, etc

One of the rules in Soap Box racing is that the drivers and crew must be able to assemble their own car so we recommend that you completely dismantle and rebuild your cars checking for damage and replacing parts as required.

Those teams requiring parts ring Lyn  
If you need assembly help, advice etc please email Kerry

Rules, plans and information are available at <http://www.aasbd.com/>





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## The School Teams

Each school should have a team of 8, consisting of 4 drivers, 2 reserve drivers who will act as Pit Crew, and 2 other Pit Crew. All teams must also have a staff member or parent who can transport the cars.

On race day each of the school's four drivers will race at least twice.



### AGE LIMITS!!

- No younger than 10 years old as at 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010
- No older than 17 years old as at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010

## The Cars and Spare Parts

- If you need any spare parts please contact Lyn.
- Please return any broken parts that you have as we can often get these repaired.
- Parts may be picked up at 570 Swanson Road, Ranui (see Lyn around the back)

Teams should liaise with sponsors regarding painting and signage.

- Schools generally are expected to find someone within their group to prepare and paint the cars (some use computer graphics to produce a cool car!)
- Sponsors are expected to provide stick on vinyl logos and signage as per rules.
- Rotary will provide numbers, sponsors signage as required so don't be afraid to give last years car a makeover.

## Practise Track

We will organize a practice track somewhere in West Auckland for use in the week leading up to the race day.

- This will be available on the weekend before and also in the evenings. This may help determine the final list of drivers
- On these days you will be able to have the cars tested, get the car and driver weights right, and have trial runs on the starting ramp.
- These practices will be from around 4pm to 7pm and is a great opportunity to fine tune your cars and have a lot of fun with your families. In the past many families have made it a picnic event.
- For safety reasons it is important that every driver must have several practice runs to ensure they have full control of steering and braking systems.
- **This should be done slowly at first on gentle slopes building up to speed only when confident**
- If you can't make your car go in an absolutely straight line you have no chance of winning. Also you must be able to stop the car in less than 50 metres after getting up to 50km per hour.
- Crash helmets and sensible clothing must be used during practice as well as when racing.





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## Trials Location

- Some schools have suitable areas within their schools or close by
- Trials must be supervised by adults



## Race and Safety Briefings

- Please diary Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March for a race and safety briefing for all race drivers and crew.
- 4pm at the Waitakere City Vehicle Testing Station, on the corner of Moselle Ave and Waipareira Ave, in Henderson. Everyone to attend

## General Information

### Involve the Schools

Last year some of the schools really got into the event with some wonderful cheerleaders and other support. Areas have been set aside for fund raising stalls so involve the whole school and you will have a ball. Lots of free stuff as well!

### Competitions

We have prizes for:

- The Most Impressive School
- The Best Video by Students (A new competition – details at end of newsletter)

### Food Stalls

Rotary will be organizing some food stalls on a commission basis. However Schools, as usual, are actively encouraged to set up food stalls as well for their own fund raising purposes.

To ensure that we don't have too many overlaps, or 20 sausage sizzles, please register your interest in running a stall with Heather. If we have too many of one we may have to limit it to "first come, first served"

Suggested stalls include, but are not limited to:

American Hotdogs

Candy floss

Chocolate

Coffee/tea

Filled pita breads

Filled rolls

Fresh fruit

Fruit smoothies

Kebabs

Milk Shakes

Pop-corn

Sausage sizzle

Scones/muffins

### Advertising

We will be creating email advertisements for this event. We would really appreciate it if you could include these in school newsletters to ensure your whole school community is aware of the event.

### Involve the Families

This Derby is a wonderful opportunity for kids, parents and grandparents to do something together, don't leave everything to a teacher.





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Everyone involved gets a real buzz out of the practices and racing, whether they end up the slowest or fastest on the day.

## Emails

Please keep an eye on your emails as more information will be coming out soon.



## Sponsors

- We have several schools that have lost their sponsor from last year.
- The Rotary Club of Waitakere City is in the process of finding new sponsors but, as usual, we need all the help we can get. If you know of any business who is willing to help please forward information to Mary Day as soon as possible
- Once again the Waitakere Licencing Trust and the Charitable Trust Foundation have lent their support

All proceeds go to the funding of local youth, community and Rotary projects

Rotary is a Volunteer Service Group of local business people endeavouring to improve their local communities by providing services and funding to disadvantaged or worthy residents. New Rotary members are always welcome – contact Kerry for details.

Our Rotary Club support many Rotary initiatives. A few of them are:

- Freeing the world from Polio
- Summer Science School
- Dictionaries for 9-year olds
- Willowpark Annual camp for the disabled

We also support many local projects including:

- Police Bluelight
- DARE
- Outward Bound
- School based entrepreneurial competitions

A brochure is available from Mary for prospective sponsors and a copy is available on our website.

## Contact Details:

The Rotary core team for the event and contact details are:

Kerry McMillan  
Derby Director and Technical Support  
[clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz)  
Phone 832-3229 or 021-416-777

Lyn  
Parts  
Phone: 021 251 5490

Mary Day  
Secretary and Promotions  
[madpromotions@xnet.co.nz](mailto:madpromotions@xnet.co.nz)  
Phone 826-5001 or 021-127-6294

Heather Pattison  
Project Manager  
[heather@details.co.nz](mailto:heather@details.co.nz)  
Phone 810-9589 or 0274-719-569





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## Soapbox Derby Video Award



In 2008 and 2009 Rotary created short videos on the Soapbox Derby for upload to You Tube, viewing on our website and display at various Rotary meetings. The 2009 videos were copied to a DVD that was given to our schools and sponsors.

These videos are on our website:

[www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz](http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz)

**We think Students can make better videos than we can... so this year we are asking Students to create a video... and there will be a prize for the best one!**

### Requirements:

Length:	5 minutes maximum
Format:	Suitable for upload to You Tube
Content:	Can contain video, slideshows of photos, logos, art work, interviews, voiceovers, music ... Let your imagination run wild!
Locations:	School Practice Days Scrutineering and drivers safety briefing day ... Where your car goes take a camera / video camera
Sponsors:	Sponsors are important – without them we can't have a Derby. The Trusts and your own sponsor provide the money to allow you to race – include their logos and help us promote them.

All videos will be uploaded to You Tube with links to them from the Waitakere City Rotary website.

Entries close prior to the Thank You evening early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> term and the winner will be announced on that night (Dates, and the prize(s), to be advised later)

