



# 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 #3

24<sup>th</sup> February 2010



Dear School and Sponsors,

Welcome to our new sponsors and schools. Please copy this newsletter and distribute to all of the people involved in the event.

### By Now:

- Your school role should have settled, the year should be under way... and you will probably know most of your students' names
- A few schools are underway with the derby, many are still catching their breath after the start of the school year

### First Steps:

- Ensure your school has its car, the plans and any required spare parts.
- Start forming the school racing team and narrow them down to prospective drivers and crew
- Ask your parents for help

### Second Steps:

- Teach the team how to completely dismantle and reassemble the cars
- The competitors also need to learn the rules from the AASBD website (it saves arguments if everyone knows them) <http://aasbd.org>
- Practise sessions need to get under way – start on gentle slopes and work upwards
- The car should be painted in your sponsors colours – or have painters ready to do this
- If you are planning a food stall as a fund raiser then let Heather know

**Please, please ensure the kids can handle their cars and use their brakes before launching themselves down steep hills!** Every year we have several crashes that cause major damage to cars, minor damage to the drivers and a severe depletion of our spare parts!

For complete novice drivers – start them on the netball court with the team pushing then build up to steeper slopes slowly.

If you need parts – contact Lyn

If you need sponsors logos or details – contact Mary

If you need help with assembly or fine tuning - contact either Kerry or Alan





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## Practice Site:

We have organized a practice site for the Derby. It is the construction zone at the other end of Westgate Drive off Royal Road (The next stage below where we practiced last year). The road is barricaded off, as it is a construction zone, and is decorated with large "Keep Out" signs. The builders are at work on the surrounding properties.



Vehicle access is restricted so it will mean pushing the carts back up the hill.

The problem the developers have is that, although they are supportive of us, the fact that the SBD cars are using the road encourages locals to think the area is fair game for their use. Push bikes and motorbikes tearing over the building sites and the rubbish left behind do not go down at all well. And it upsets OSH. Please be co-operative with the builders' need and realize that if we are not careful we could lose it.

Please, please, please start the kids on Gentle Slopes and ensure they have full control before letting them loose on the hill - and build up their distance on that one slowly.

Official practices, with Rotarians there, will be run during the last two weeks prior to the event. If you have your own site then it would be appreciated if you could use that for the next couple of weeks.

## Latest News:



The Elected Members of The Waitakere Licensing Trust through the Trusts Charitable Foundation, our platinum sponsors, have once again approved our request for funds to cover many of the costs of this event.



The two Trusts have been totally brilliant in supporting us since the Soapbox Derby first came to West Auckland. The Trusts were first approached seven years ago to fund the first of our cars and they have continued their support by covering many of the running costs each year. Running an event such as this is a rather expensive undertaking.

It is thanks to The Trusts and our other sponsors that this event is the success that it is and that through it Rotary is able to contribute to many local community and youth projects in West Auckland.

## Sponsors:

Mary is in the process of contacting all our past sponsors, confirming those who wish to be involved again and seeking out new sponsors. Those sponsors who have confirmed so far are listed below; others are still in the telephone tag game.

If you can help with leads for sponsors it would make her task much easier. Mary is also happy to liaise with a sponsor on your behalf.





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A brochure is available from Mary for prospective sponsors and she is more than happy to follow up on any potential leads. We also have a copy of the brochure as a pdf on our website.



We have heard parents say in the past, "This is a great event, if I'd known about it then I would have liked to sponsor my school's car." Advertise it in your newsletters and you may just find parents beating down your door in their rush to come to you!

Metro Roofing sponsored a full car last year and came back this year begging to be allowed to sponsor us to the tune of \$5,000 instead of just one car. We thought about it... briefly... and said, "Yes, of course!"

Following is a list of confirmed sponsors:

## Schools and Confirmed Sponsors to date

School	Full Sponsors	Part Sponsors
1 Bruce McLaren Intermediate		
2 Henderson Intermediate	DARE	
3 Hobsonville Primary	Western Leader	
4 Kelston Boys High		
5 Lincoln Heights		
6 Liston College		
7 Massey High 103		
8 Massey High 104		Testing Station, KTS (Kumeu Taxation Services)
9 Pomaria Primary		
10 Rangeview		
11 Riverhead	Metro Roofing	
12 Rutherford College		
13 Sunderland School 120	Panasonic / Air Conditioning Services	
14 Sunderland College 129	The Web Company	
15 Swanson School		
16 Taupaki School 128		
17 Whenuapai		Metro Roofing
18 Waitakere Primary		Airfoam (1/2), FBN contracting & Waitakere Resident's Assoc
<b>Unassigned Sponsors</b>		
Waitakere City Council		





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## The Hobsonville Motorway Walk

This was held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February and, fairly naturally as we were involved as helpers, we had two Soapbox Derby cars there along with signs and photos.



A steady stream of walkers stopped to check it out on their way through. Many children stopped to look for "their" car in the photos and members of the public, from the very young to those who built their own cars as kids and "ended up in tangles of arms, legs, metal pram wheels and planks of wood in the hedge at the bottom of the lane" were very interested in it.

Thanks to Shawn at Riverhead for lending us their Metro Roofing car and Sunderland for the use of The Web Company one. Sorry about the dust...



(More photos of this event are at [www.walkwest.co.nz](http://www.walkwest.co.nz))





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### Television Coverage:



Last year Shawn Dyer of Riverhead School launched his TV career by appearing on Close Up with the Metro Roofing car



(If you missed his début then it can be found on TV On Demand – half way through the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter <http://tvnz.co.nz/close-up/2009-04-03-video-2616370>)

Shawn and his team return to the small screen later in the year with Te Radar. One episode of Te Radar's new series will be on... wait for it... the Riverhead soapbox derby car and its progression from now to race day.

### Video Competition:

I have been asked whether the SBD team should do this or if other students can be involved.

Different people have different skills. Whilst some are happy to throw themselves off a cliff, wild gleam in their eyes yelling, "Wah Hoo!" Others, including myself, are far more comfortable standing in a nice safe spot photographing them do it then retiring to a quiet computer to edit the results.

Why not make the derby and video a class project involving all your students? Research, building, driving, directing, presenting, graphics, music, video, photographs, editing... How many of your students can you involve? Who can write the best ad for the school newsletter – and send it to me for inclusion on our website and in the newsletters.

If it suits your school better – call on students in other classes for help. We just ask that it be the students' work, perhaps with the guidance of an adult.

And don't forget the sponsors who make this event happen. Acknowledge them. Their logos are on your cars so make sure that at the very least these can be clearly seen in some of the shots.

### Food Stalls:

- This event is a Rotary fundraiser but we like to include other participants needs as well
- This year we have made certain that Round the Bays, Pacifica and the Kumeu Show are on different days so we expect a good turnout from spectators.





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- Ask your PTA if they would like to run a food stall – and email Heather with their suggestion.



## Food Stalls

School	Food
1 Bruce McLaren Intermediate	American Hotdogs and Cold Drinks
2 Henderson Intermediate	
3 Hobsonville Primary	
4 Kelston Boys High	
5 Lincoln Heights	Hamburgers
6 Liston College	
7 Massey High	
8 Pomaria Primary	
9 Rangeview	
10 Riverhead	
11 Rutherford College	
12 Sunderland School & College	Water, fruit, lollies
13 Swanson School	
14 Taupaki School	
15 Whenuapai	Sausage Sizzle, water and soft drinks
16 Waitakere Primary	Candyfloss

## Interesting Info:

- DID YOU KNOW: This race is a primer for competitive car racing in the USA?
- IT IS A FACT THAT: 70% of NASCAR racing drivers started their career by racing in the AASBD
- The SBD is also a primer for motor sport racing in New Zealand with things such as the understanding of rules, sponsors and safety briefings being of benefit





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## Emails:

Please keep an eye on your emails as more information will be coming out soon. If you have other people who would like copies - email Heather with their email address and they will be added to the mail out list.



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

Kerry McMillan Derby Director and Technical Support <a href="mailto:clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz">clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz</a> Phone 832-3229 or 021-416-777	Lyn Parts Phone: 021 251 5490	
Mary Day Secretary and Promotions <a href="mailto:madpromotions@xnet.co.nz">madpromotions@xnet.co.nz</a> Phone home: 826-5001 or 021-127-6294	Heather Pattison Project Manager <a href="mailto:heather@details.co.nz">heather@details.co.nz</a> Phone 810-9589 or 0274- 719-569	Alan Pattison Assistant <a href="mailto:alan@details.co.nz">alan@details.co.nz</a> Phone 810-9589 or 0274-80-88-30

Heather Pattison

