



ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE CITY

Making a difference in our world

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

www.soapboxderby.co.nz



2011 Soapbox Derby Newsletter #1 7th February 2011

Dear Schools 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 8th Great Western Soapbox Derby will be held at Westgate Drive on **Sunday 20th March 2011** 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

The NZ SBD Derby Dates

Sunday 20th March

Sunday 27th March

Saturday 2nd April

Saturday 9th April

Sunday 10th April

Waitakere City Rotary

Whangarei Rotary AND East Auckland Rotary

Northcote Rotary

Whangaparaoa Rotary

NZ Final - Whangaparaoa

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





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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.org>

Please note that there are some important NZ Rules to address local conditions that need to be read in conjunction with the American ones. These are available at:
<http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz/uploads/2011%20SBD/NZ-Rules.pdf>

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 20th March 2011
- No older than 17 years old as at 1st 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 year's 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.





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- **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.

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 17th 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

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

Filled pita breads

Filled rolls

Fresh fruit

Fruit smoothies

Kebabs

Milk Shakes

Pop-corn

Sausage sizzle

Scones/muffins





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Food Stalls

	School	Food
1	Bruce McLaren Intermediate	
2	Henderson Intermediate	
3	Hobsonville Primary	
4	Kelston Boys High	
5	Lincoln Heights	
6	Liston College	
7	Massey High	Bacon and Egg Burgers Sausage Sizzle Sweets Cold Drinks
8	Rangeview	
9	Riverhead	
10	Rutherford College	
11	Sunderland School & College	
12	Swanson School	
13	Taupaki School	
14	Whenuapai	
15	Waitakere Primary	
16	Birdwood Primary	

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.

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.





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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 Heather as soon as possible
- Sponsors get advertising on the Rotary website; in our weekly Rotary bulletin; the use of the cars for display purposes; photos for their own advertising...
- Some schools also keep their car on display in their foyer for a part of the year
- We also display one or two cars at Rotary events and insert as many as we can in local Santa parades. Last year the Henderson Santa Parade was led by a police car – towing the DARE SBD car – with several more SBD cars in the floats behind it. Other local parades also had cars in them.



- We also ask schools to help promote their sponsors – notices in school newsletters are a great start

Dictionaries

Waitakere City Rotary supports the Rotary "Dictionaries for 9 year olds" program. We have gained permission from the organizers to also use these for our Soapbox Derby.

- Every school who finds full sponsorship for their car will be given 30 Rotary dictionaries. As the retail cost for these is \$30 each this is a great deal for schools!

Where the money goes

Part of the fee goes towards holding the Event:

- New cars and parts for existing cars
- To help with the costs of holding the event
- The entry fee for finalists in the NZ Finals (this includes a share of the cost of the grand prize – the trip to America to compete in the All American Soapbox Derby Finals)

The profit from the Event goes to the funding of local youth, community and Rotary projects





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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

We also support many local projects including:

- Police Bluelight
- DARE
- Outward Bound

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

Soapbox Derby Video Award



Every year we make short 5 minute videos of the event to put on You Tube, our website – and a disk for our sponsors.

We think Students can make better videos that we can... so 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.





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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 2nd term and the winner will be announced on that night (Dates, and the prize(s), to be advised later)

Contact Details:

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

Project Manager

Heather Pattison

heather@details.co.nz

Phone 810-9589 or

0274-719-569

Derby Director and

Technical Support

Kerry McMillan

clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz

Phone 832-3229 or 021-416-777

Parts

Lyn

Phone: 021 251 5490

