



ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE

Making a difference in our world

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

www.soapboxderby.co.nz

2013 Soapbox Derby Newsletter #1

13th February 2013

Dear School and Sponsors,

Welcome to our new sponsors and schools. We trust you have had a good break and are settling into the New Year.

Key Soapbox Derby Dates:

Saturday 23 rd February 2pm	SBD workshop – General Car Setup - <i>Subject to interest</i> - <i>Pre-booking essential</i>
Thursday 7 th March	Compulsory Safety Brief
Friday 8 th March 7pm	SBD workshop – Fine Tuning - <i>Subject to interest</i> - <i>Pre-booking essential</i>
Sunday 10 th March	Auckland East SBD – Stonefields Road
Sunday 17 th March	West Auckland Soapbox Derby - Westgate Drive, Massey
Saturday 23 th March	Northcote SBD – Kaipatiki Road
29 th March to 2 nd April	Easter
Saturday 6 th April	Whangaparaoa SBD – Brightside Road
Sunday 7 th April	NZ Finals – Brightside Road, Whangaparaoa
Friday 19 th April	Post your Video Competition entries to us
Wednesday 8 th May	Soapbox Derby Thank You Night

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





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First Step:

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

A successful team often has:

The Principal	To support it
The Secretary	To promote it
The Teacher	To run it
Parents	To do the work

HELP!

- If you need parts – contact Lyn
- If you need sponsors logos or details – contact Heather
- If you need help with assembly or fine tuning - contact Alan
- If you need help with promotion to your school – contact Kerry

We are here to help so if you need it – ask!

Second Step:

- 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) www.aasbd.org
- The NZ SBD Trust have also issued a few local rules that we need to comply with: <http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz/uploads/2013-SBD/2013-NZ-SBD-Rules.pdf> (Note: This was updated 29th Jan 2013 and there are changes from last year)
- Practise sessions need to get under way – start on gentle slopes and work upwards
- You need to get your car body painted in the sponsor's colours with logos
- If you are planning a food stall as a fund raiser then let Heather know
- If you have a Carnival idea as a fund raiser then let Heather know

Practice:

Please, 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.





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Note that this applies to **checking** your car too. If your car has been in store then cables will have loosened and new builds need to be checked on gentle slopes first!

Practice Site:

As usual we have a problem with this in our congested city.

- Vino Cina Heights now had more houses and cars
- The centre section of Westgate Drive has now opened so that option has completely gone.

If anyone spots a suitable place to practice please let me know.

If you are using public roads be very aware that motorists do not expect to see a small SBD car racing towards them at speed! You will need adults at appropriate places for safety.

Car Setup Workshops:



During Race Week in America the teams are encouraged to attend workshops to learn the finer points of setting up the soapbox derby cars and how to use "spindling" tools.

We are very fortunate in that our recent two West Auckland NZ Champion's teams are passionate about the derby, attended these workshops, are highly skilled - and want to share their knowledge.

The team brought back two sets of tools (pictured) for us.

Rather than put them in the storeroom (never to be seen again) we have entrusted them to Shawn and Barry's care on the **strict** condition that they play nicely and share!

We have therefore arranged two workshops for them to share their knowledge – if anyone is interested in attending

Saturday 23 rd February 2pm to 4pm	A general workshop on car setup	Pre-booking is essential (insufficient interest and they may be cancelled)
Friday 8 th March 7pm to 9pm	Fine tuning using the spindling equipment	
Contact: Shawn Dyer Home: 412 9500 Mobile: 027 390 9885	Barry Hinton Home: 810 9977 Mobile: 022 0143 862	Contact Shawn to book and for the venue details.

Please note that other Clubs also have these tools and have learnt how to use them. To be competitive in our race, the NZ Finals and in America **a finely tuned car is essential** so learn how to do it.





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The following points are the key ones for success:

- A well setup and finely tuned racing car
- A well practised driver
- A focussed driver who "can read the road"
- A smidgeon of luck

Sponsors:

We are 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 our task much easier. We are happy to liaise with a sponsor on your behalf.

A brochure is available from Heather for prospective sponsors and we also have a copy of the brochure as a pdf on our website – www.soapboxderby.co.nz

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!

NOTE: For those schools who find their own sponsors there is a **REWARD!**

We will give your school a classroom set of 30 Rotary dictionaries (retail value \$900) if YOU can find full sponsorship for your car (pro rata reward for partial sponsorship)

We are extremely fortunate that Auckland Council is helping to fund the event:

- Auckland Council

Please advise us of any changes to the following:

ACG Sunderland College
Bruce McLaren Intermediate
Henderson Intermediate 1
Hobsonville Primary
Massey High
Matipo School
Rangeview Intermediate
Riverhead School
Riverhead Scouts
Rutherford College
Swanson School 1
Swanson School 2
Waitakere Primary
Whenuapai School





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Corporate Cars:



These were introduced last year and proved very entertaining for both those who raced and those who watched.

Who can drive them?

- Principals
- Our Full Sponsors



We may extend the category depending on interest and time available for racing.

Expressions of interest please to Heather and we shall see what we can do.

Super kids Cars:



In America they have introduced the "Super Kids Race" for less able students.

The car is wider and carries one able bodied experienced driver and a less able bodied passenger.

Alan is currently building two of these cars to the American plans for use at all the race centres.

Watch this space...

Carnival Ideas:

We have thought long and hard on how to make the Event extra appealing for spectators (hey, we all know the cars are fascinating but kids watching get restless and like other things to do as well).

Expensive rides are ... expensive.

We are therefore looking to provide a Home Grown Carnival Event with all profit going to those who provide the stalls.

Would your school like to run a carnival idea? Thoughts to date are:

- Face Painting
- Bubble blowing toys
- Coconut shies
- Dunk the Principal
- ...

Involve your parents and PTA, dream up a few ideas and contact Heather with the details.





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Life and Colour:



Bring your Cheerleading team!



Food Stalls:

- This event is a Rotary fundraiser but we like to include other participants needs as well
- Ask your PTA if they would like to run a food stall – and email Heather with their suggestion.

Food Stalls confirmed to date

School	Food
Others	Food
1 Espresso on the Go www.espressoonthego.co.nz	Coffee (top end of course)
2 Supa Softee Ice cream	

Guide Biscuits:

It is biscuit season. If any Guides have any remaining stocks that they want to sell then by all means do so at the Derby

Video Award:

Some kids are born to race; others aren't - but have other useful skills. Involve them!

Details of our Annual Video Award are on our website: www.soapboxderby.co.nz

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

Website:

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As information becomes available we add it to our website – including copies of the newsletters. Photos, videos etc from past derbies are also on our site.





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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.

We have very few parents on the email list (we haven't been given addresses for them) so please ensure they get a copy and know about the website.

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

<p>Kerry McMillan Derby Director clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz Phone 832-3229 or 021-416-777</p>	<p>Lyn Parts Phone: 021 251 5490</p>
<p>Heather Pattison Project Manager heather@details.co.nz Phone 810-9589 or 0274-719-569</p>	<p>Alan Pattison Technical Assistant alan@details.co.nz Phone 810-9589 or 0274-80-88-30</p>
<p>Rotary Meetings:</p> <p>Wednesday 6pm to 8pm</p> <p>Starling Park Sports Grounds 34 Glen Road Ranui</p>	<p>Are YOU the missing piece?</p>  <p>Rotary Membership Enquiries Welcome!</p>

Heather Pattison

Please copy this newsletter and distribute to all of the people involved in the event!

